

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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ASF vote

CHAIRMAN CHALLENGE

BY KEITH GILMOUR

MELBOURNE and Sydney are aiming to wrest control of the Australian Soccer Federation from the so-called "minor States".

To achieve this goal Victoria will support NSW's John Constantine in the election for chairman of the ASF in March.

Karel Rodny.

He is a member of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and a partner in a Sydney legal firm.

Victoria's vote will be vital in the election of the chairman as it and NSW control 50 percent of the ASF's voting strength.

VSF president Vito Cilauro is also an ASF commissioner.

Constantine, who stood against Brusasco last time, did not succeed because the Victorians failed to swing their votes to him as they voted for their own candidate, the then VSF president Jack Reilly.

Victoria's support alone, however, won't guarantee Constantine the job.

He will need votes from two more states to be elected.

Ian Brusasco confesses at not being unduly perturbed by this latest challenge.

Brusasco, a Brisbane chemist and investments consultant, was responsible for the stabilisation of the Queensland Soccer Federation and held office as an alderman of

Brisbane City Council, the world's biggest municipal authority.

For a long period he operated in national soccer in the shadow of then chairman Sir Arthur George, but he has demonstrated leadership qualities of his own.



IAN BRUSASCO
Incumbent

From an extremely difficult starting point he has attempted to introduce reforms in ASF circles and it must be remembered that he bobbed up to secure the chairmanship when few gave him any chance of success.



Alan Hunter (No 4) challenges 'keeper Bob Catlin in this goalmouth action from last Friday's 3-1 win by Marconi over Sydney Croatia — HECTOR CARRASCO phot.

QNSL to investigate Olympic Park "riot"

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE QNSL has called for a full-scale inquiry into the fracas at the end of the South Melbourne v Melbourne Croatia game at Olympic Park last Friday night.

Fights broke out among an estimated 2,000 people who invaded the pitch after an incident-packed match which Souths won 2-1.

Police reinforcements were called to help restore order.

The spectators were lined up on the running track waiting for referee Gary Power to blow the final whistle.

They then stormed onto the pitch from all sides and several fights broke out, all involving large groups of fans.

The fracas lasted for about five minutes before police chased the trouble makers back over the fences.

What a pity that the QNSL's first appearance this summer at Olympic Park should end on such an unsavoury note.

The large crowd, though, was positive and should encourage officials to stage more "big" games at what is still by far the best soccer ground in Victoria — and the only floodlit venue.

Fencing, however, should be installed to prevent a repetition of last weekend's disgraceful scenes.

QNSL vice-chairman Tony Labbozzetta said the NSL had called for the ABC footage of the match and for the police and

referee reports.

There are provisions in the NSL's constitution to fine clubs \$10,000 for crowd trouble.

The disturbance was the first major incident since an all-in brawl between spectators at the Sydney Olympic-Preston Makedonia game at St George Sta-

dium early last season.

The QNSL must come down hard on the offenders.

A small minority of hotheads cannot be permitted to cause the game more adverse publicity as it heads into the nineties.



JOHN CONSTANTINE
Challenger

Constantine, president of the NSW Soccer Federation, has declared he will oppose Ian Brusasco, whose term ends then.

Constantine, one of the five ASF commissioners, has made no secret of his dissatisfaction over the direction the game is taking under the current leadership.

Constantine has been in the sport since 1977, starting off as president of the then new Sydney Olympic club and then later taking over as NSW Federation president from the late

INSIDE YOUR ASW

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- ☆ QUO VADIS AUSSIE SOCCER? P10
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European Player of the Year

DON'T MISS YOUR ASW EACH WEEK

DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
HOLIDAYS THERE ARE NO POOLS
RESULTS THIS WEEK — SEE JANUARY 10,
1990 ISSUE FOR DETAILS.

Socceroo candidates in Mariani's NSW squad

BY KEITH GILMOUR

YOUTHFUL NSW coach Berti Mariani will closely watch the Torpedo Moscow players in their first Socceroo encounter before finalising his state side.

The Russian visitors play Australia on Friday, January 19 at the Sydney Football Stadium, after they open their tour in Newcastle on the previous Wednesday.

After two further matches, the NSW game is scheduled for Brandon Park, Wollongong, on Wednesday January 31.

Mariani expects that Frank Arok will settle for either Robert Hooker or Robert Wheatley for the national squad, leaving the odd man out for his side.

Despite his high standard club play, Wheatley has too often been overlooked by the national coach.

At 27, however, he has a lot to offer, whilst 22-year-old Hooker

shows distinct signs of being No1 choice for the Socceroos in a few years' time.

Without doubt the informal Bob Catlin is No1 choice as goalkeeper for the Light Blues.

"John Filan has earned recognition. There has been a limited choice of goalkeepers and he is well worth looking at," Mariani allowed.

Although Arok is ready to have a look at Manchester United reserve keeper Mark Bosnich, if Sean Lahiff follows up on his present promise he could upset selection plans.

Mariani has seen enough of 20-year-old Dave Barrett in club football to recognise his potential.

And, well deserving his selection is Sydney



Gary Phillips

Olympic's dynamo, Gary Phillips.

"Gary is a solid player and is often overlooked, a player of his calibre is needed to give balance to the side."

The inclusion of Brian Ellem in the squad begs the question of how he escaped Blacktown City's clutches and was able to land at Lambert Park.

He hasn't put a foot wrong too often this season, and his vision and mobility add to his

worth.

Mariani is naturally well sold on Zlatko Nastevski's ability to elude defenders to ghost in and score.

At 32 the possibility is that he will be in the starting line-up in Wollongong.

Rod Brown's exceptional speed and nose for goals has won him a place, whilst Abbas Saad will be great value if he gets a run.

Mark Jones could also be a starter. A nonsense defender or defensive midfielder, he does collect his quota of goals.

Players included in Arok's Sydney squad and not with NSW are Charlie Yankos, Gary van Egmond, Ian Gray, Tom McCulloch, Alex Bundalo, Graham Arnold and Scott Ollerenshaw.

Arok has to pare down his Socceroo squad by January 10.

At that stage Mariani will be much clearer on his options.



DON CAMPBELL with TONY DORIGO

Dorigo glory-bound

BY LOU GAUTIER

WHILE few can argue that Craig Johnston was Australia's Soccer Player of the Decade for his feats in England with Liverpool, everything at this stage points to Tony Dorigo having a head start for glory in the 1990s.

His first full cap for England against Yugoslavia, albeit as a second half substitute, is a portent of more honours to come.

Players like Johnston and Eddie Krncevic received more attention probably because they score goals, whereas Dorigo is a defender occupied in a far less glamorous capacity on the field.

That an Australian-born player can more than hold his own against England's seasoned professionals is a major achievement, which reflects well on Australian soccer.

It proves that given the proper facilities and conditions, Australian players can also rise to the top of the international tree.

Dorigo must now have an excellent chance of playing in the World Cup finals.

Another Australian-born defender, Mechelen of Belgium's Graeme Rutjes, could also force his way into Holland's starting line-up in Italy.

I agree with those

who claim that Dorigo's appearance on the Wembley turf last month in an England shirt was the greatest achievement ever by an Australian-born soccer player.

Ho, ho, ho, it's Santa



This Santa Claus added to the Christmas cheer when he led the Marconi and South Melbourne players onto the pitch on December 22.

NSL Inpho lines

WELL DONE, NSL Results Hot Line ... Soccer fans are now

able to get all results and details of NSL games literally within minutes of completion by phoning 0055 21166.

Former ace SBS sports reporter Michael Tomalaris is providing the up-to-the-minute service.

And don't forget you can also catch John Warren's outspoken views and comments by dialing 0055 20605.

For a running description and comments on the NSL's match of the day (in Sydney and in Adelaide), phone 0055 21150, with Les Murray, Warren, Ian Aitken and John Nyskohus at the mike.

NSW SQUAD MEMBERS

BOB CATLIN 24
JOHN FILAN 21
ROBERT HOOKER 22
STEVE CALDERAN 26
ROBERT WHEATLEY 27
MIKE GRBEVSKI 22
DAVID BARRETT 20
J-P de MARIGNY 25
GARY PHILLIPS 26
PETER KATHOLOS 28
MARK JONES 23
ZLATKO NASTEVSKI 32
BRIAN ELLEM 22
ABBAS SAAD 23
ROD BROWN 26
DAVID BATTEN 25



Rod Brown

NORTHERN NSW SQUAD

SEVERAL Sydney-based players have been selected in the Northern NSW team to play Torpedo Moscow in their Australian tour opener on January 17 at the International Sports Centre in Newcastle.

As the game is played on a Wednesday, Northern NSW director of coaching Ken Kaiser is hopeful not all clubs will react like Sydney Croatia, who have vetoed the selection of defender Mark Jones.

Croatia were not keen to release the Newcastle-born Jones because of the injury incurred by Sean Ingham in a friendly match against the Socceroos last year.

Another player who won't be appearing for his home town is Craig Johnston, who declined selection because he felt he was not fit enough.

This is the squad for the Torpedo match: Graham Jennings, Darren Stewart, John McQuarrie, Peter Murray, Ralph Maier, David Lowe, Marshall Soper and Garry Phillips — all with Sydney NSW clubs — Steve Dorman, Ross and Scott Wells, Neil Owens, Michael Boogaard, Dennis King, Paul Waddingham.

Officials are hoping a crowd in excess of 8,000 will turn up for an all too rare international match in the Newcastle area.

— LOU GAUTIER

AUSTRALIAN

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PREVIEW

Apia after Olympic's scalp

BY LOU GAUTIER

SUNDAY's clash at St George Stadium between Sydney Olympic and Apia Leichhardt is easily the "match of the round" as the QNSL swings into Round 9.

Who would have thought a few weeks ago that Apia would be sharing first place with two-fifths of the season gone?

But here they are at the top of the ladder after accounting for Preston in impressive fashion last Saturday while Olympic stumbled at inconsistent Adelaide City.

Manfred Schaefer, ever the realist, said at the weekend that this was the litmus test for his team.

Now that the Raskopoulos-Hickman duo, has finally tasted defeat, Olympic will be out to make amends in what promises to be a thriller which could go either way as Apia won at Sydney Olympic last season when they were not half the side they are now.

On Friday, Blacktown, who did well to glean a point at Sunshine, will have a fight on their hands against an AdCity side which needs to be more consistent but which is back on track after a splendid win against Olympic.

Blacktown will be without skipper Kurt Reynolds, sent off against Sunshine.

Adelaide should win narrowly despite carrying a long injury list.

Marconi, the big beneficiary of last weekend's results, should have too many guns for the battlers from George Cross, who are still hanging in there, though.

Sunshine will be without the suspended John Campbell, and will be looking to new



New Sydney Croatia player-coach Graham Arnold (left) takes on Steve Calderon last week. Arnold's first match as coach is against sister club Melbourne Croatia at Somers Street — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

signing Ernie Tapai for more punch up front, but Marconi should win with something to spare despite fair to indifferent form of late.

Wollongong City, who gained two valuable and well-deserved points, at St George last week, take on confident Melita Eagles, cock-a-hoop after jumping up three places on the ladder.

Raul Blanco is expected to field new Argentine striker Sergio Falce for the full game. His partnership with Greg Brown could prove too much for gallant City.

It's already do-or-die time for Preston and Saints. A defeat here would just about kill off their slim Top Five hopes and mean relegation worries for

the remainder of the season.

The absence of the suspended Andy Koczka, sent off against Wollongong, is a blow Frank Arok could do without.

Preston, with Warren Spink finally back on deck, look the goods here.

Adelaide Hellas are in big, big trouble and their position is unlikely to improve this weekend.

South Melbourne have hit top stride — so much for those who mocked Ferenc Pus-
tan' coaching methods as "out-dated".

Paul Trimboli and Co should have far too much class for the South Australians, now in danger of being well adrift at the foot

of the standings unless Brian Garvey works a miracle.

Melbourne Croatia will do its sister club no favours at Somers Street.

Injuries to key players have taken their toll on Melbourne Croatia, but Sydney Croatia should not present too much of a problem.

Teams have the knack of delivering first-up for a new coach, but it's hard to see Graham Arnold starting on a winning note against a side of the calibre of the Victorians.

My tips: Adelaide City, Marconi, Melita, Preston, South Melbourne, Melbourne Croatia, Sydney Olympic-Apia draw.

Two-goal Brown nails Preston

BY LOU GAUTIER

TWO goals in eight minutes by Rod Brown helped Apia Leichhardt to a well-deserved 2-0 win over a lacklustre Preston Makedonia at Lambert Park last Saturday.



Equally prominent was Jason van Blerk, who had a big hand in Brown's double-strike.

After an insipid first half, Brown opened the scoring in the 72nd minute with a superb first-time volley from a left wing pass by van Blerk which left Preston goalkeeper Phil Traianedes stranded.

Van Blerk was also involved in goal number two, in the 80th minute, when his cross to the far post was hooked by midfielder Alex Bundalo for Brown to add the finishing touch.

Brown's brace enabled him to join Zlatko Nastevski on top of the NSL's scorers' list with eight goals.

Preston never

looked like scoring.

Apia goalie Tony Pezzano had precious little work, unlike his Makedonia counterpart.

There wasn't much Traianedes could do about the two goals, but he saved at least two more — off Brown in the 35th minute and off a point-blank Bundalo drive in the 35th.

Four minutes from the end, Peter Murray, who had come in for Ron Manley in the 63rd minute should have made it 3-0 when he missed an absolute sitter right in front of goal.

The searing heat took its toll on both teams, but Apia sprung to life in the second period to display some sparkling football.

Needless to say, even hard-to-please coach Manfred Schaefer was satisfied.

"It was a good win. Mentally and physically, we were the stronger team."

"Preston played negative football."

Apia		Preston	
Pezzano.....	5	Traianedes.....	7
Blagojevic.....	5	Runje.....	5
Jennings.....	5	(Spink 4)	
(Okon 87m)		Jolevski.....	6
Stewart.....	5	Jackson.....	5
Halliday.....	5	Tasevski.....	5
Clinch.....	5	Markovac.....	5
Ellem.....	5	Petrov.....	5
Manley.....	5	Slifkas.....	4
(Murray 63m)		(Woodall 4)	
R. Brown.....	7	Smith.....	4
Bundalo.....	6	Crino.....	4
van Blerk.....	7	Zinni.....	4

Scorer: R. Brown 72 & 80 mins.

Yellow card: Woodall 86m for Preston.

Referee: R. Lorenc 7.

Crowd: 2250.

Weekend fixtures



ROUND 10

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

BLACKTOWN CITY v ADELAIDE CITY

Gabbie Stadium 7.30pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

MARCONI v SUNSHINE GC

Marconi Stadium 7pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

PRESTON MAKEDONIA v ST GEORGE

Connor Reserve 6pm

ADELAIDE HELLAS v SOUTH MELBOURNE

Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

MELBOURNE CROATIA v SYDNEY CROATIA

Somers Street 6pm

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v APIA LEICHHARDT

St George Stadium 7pm

WOLLONGONG CITY v MELITA EAGLES

Brandon Park 6pm

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Of that there is little doubt. The Victorians appeared content to hold on to the ball in the midfield and did not mount one dangerous attack.

Oscar Crino was ineffective in Preston's midfield and Warren Spink, who came on at half-time after missing eight games through a foot injury, was never a threat.

Preston coach Ljube Jancev, whose future may be in doubt, praised Brown's first goal as a "world-class effort" but lamented his team's lack of urgency.



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South win Melbourne clash of the giants

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

A depleted South Melbourne held on to defeat a fast-finishing Melbourne Croatia 2-1 in a dramatic encounter which was ruined by post-match violence at Olympic Park last Friday night.

The game itself was dominated by Souths in the first half for the most part, especially in midfield where Mike Petersen reigned supreme and where little dynamo, Peter Tsolakis, used as an attacking defender, once again displayed fine form.

Clearly, Croatia's best player was Alan Davidson, who gave his side inspiration late in the opening half. However, star midfielder Zeljko Adzic, was not as prominent as usual as he was used as an out and out striker, thus he was starved of the ball while Hellas was in control.

South opened the scoring in the 12th minute when Tsolakis ran down the left, then centred a perfect pass to the unmarked Steve Blair, who easily side-footed into the right corner of the net from

close range.

Hellas were well in control until the last 10 minutes of the first half when Croatia began to find its feet and almost scored with three successive chances via Alan Davidson, George Hannah and Joe Caleta.

But in the last minute, Hellas reasserted control with a second goal.

A Tsolakis freekick from the left found Kimon Taliadoros just outside the area on the far side, he blazed a powerful low drive in a pack of players only two metres from goal.

Young Soccerroo Paul Trimboli was at hand to score a customary opportunist goal in quick-thinking fashion.

The second half was a much more lively affair, with chances falling at both ends.

However, the turning point in the match arrived in the 64th minute when Taliadoros was given his marching orders by referee Gary Power for allegedly kicking Davidson.

From that time on, Croatia lifted its game and used its new found space to full advantage, running rampant at the

South backline.

Adzic got into the game much more, Davidson was inspirational down the left and substitute Iva Kelic came so close to hero's status for a day.

It was Kelic who won a penalty for his side in the 75th minute.

Davidson started the move, Hannah continued with a cross to Kelic on the far post, but Durakovic punched clear off the goal-line from Kelic's header.

Adzic converted the penalty with a shot high into the top right corner of the net.

Croatian pressure continued to intensify, Davidson clipped the crossbar with a delightful left foot chip and

again forced keeper Bruce McLaren to make a brilliant backpedalling save.

Davidson, again in the thick of the action, found Kelic wide on the right. He charged to the area before unleashing a stinging volley that slammed against the far post.

Kelic had two further big chances to clinch a draw for Croatia in injury-time but hesitation lost one of them and with only seconds remaining, McLaren foiled him with a point-blank save.

In the end Souths were lucky to get away with both points where a draw would have been a fair result.

SUNSHINE George Cross and Blacktown City shared the spoils in a scrappy 1-1 draw at Skinner Reserve last Saturday evening.

Sunshine officials were distraught before the kick off as midfielder Ernie Tapai from Melbourne JUST could not line up because of yet another administration hitch.

The NSL cleared the former Soccerroo before the kick-off but Sunshine must now wait on a clearance from the VSF offices which re-open on January 8.

Nevertheless, Sunshine dominated the game in the first half with penetrating play from midfielders Craig Foster and David Clarkson.

Sunshine's first chance fell to striker Paul Foster via brother Craig but he blazed away over the crossbar from point-blank range, albeit under pressure from keeper Bill Londos.

Minutes later, a cross from Alan Roodhouse on the left found Craig Foster who sent a flying header goalbound, but keeper Londos made a fine reaction save.

Sunshine continued to pepper the goal, with chances falling to Shaun Parton, Paul Foster and Les Carter, but good keeping and not so confident finishing kept the scoreline blank.

However, Sunshine finally found the back of the net in the 43rd minute when defender John Campbell sent a 20-metre curler into the far corner for a deserved half-time lead.

After the break Blacktown showed more desire but Sunshine wouldn't let up and as a result the game became very scrappy.

Blacktown scored its equaliser in the 65th minute in fortunate circumstances.

A powerful Paul Carter shot at goal connected defender Roodhouse, who tried desperately to clear but the ball entered the



GREG BROWN

MELITA Eagles really turned on the style with a scintillating first half performance to brush aside the challenge of a woeful Adelaide Hellas in a comfortable 2-0 victory at South Granville on Saturday evening.

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

day evening.

The Eagles tore into their opponents as if

two-goal cushion, Melita were living dangerously due to their inability

Melita Eagles	Adelaide Hellas
McPherson.....6	Parks.....5
Williams.....5	Hiern.....5
(Mason 72m)	Barnett.....5
O'Donnell.....5	Maricic.....5
Barrios.....6	Slager.....5
Gonzalez.....6	Kidd.....6
Callanan.....6	Watkins.....5
Vial.....6	(Doak 56m)
Cerro.....6	Brazzale.....5
(Falce 62m)	(Stamatelopoulos 82m)
Soper.....6	Rankin.....5
Genc.....8	Blair.....5
G. Brown.....6	Vatsilas.....5

Scorers: G. Brown 15, A. Genc 44m for Melita Eagles.

Yellow card: D. Maricic 80m for Adelaide Hellas.

Referee: P. Spiers 6.

Crowd: 1852.

their whole future depended on this one game and for 45 minutes made Hellas look like an ordinary State League outfit.

Until they got this

ity to convert their huge superiority into goals.

Once Greg Brown blasted them in front after 15 minutes following a terrible defensive mix-up in the Hellas penalty area, the Eagles took complete control and could have had a four-goal lead at the break.

Genc's close control took him past three desperate lunges before having his shot blocked by the legs of goalkeeper Bob Parkes in the 24th minute and Brown followed up to hit the rebound just wide.

In a matter of seconds after half an hour, Brown again charged into the area but narrowly missed the target and Marshall Soper got behind the defence but hurried his attempt with a wild shot.

Just as Hellas began to show signs that they could possibly claw their way back into the match, Genc bobbed up just inside the area in the 44th minute, brought down Soper's cross from the left, and seeing the keeper off his line, curled the ball into the top corner.

With the points safely tucked away, coach Raul Blanco introduced his new import from Argentina, Sergio Falce, in the 62nd minute and while he showed some nice touches, he will need a couple of more outings before he will settle into his new surroundings.

Scrappy draw at Skinner

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

back of the net via the upright.

Both sides lost the services of a player in the 80th minute.

Blacktown's Kurt Reynolds and Sunshine's Campbell were both sent off by referee Jim Rossis for an incident behind the play which left Reynolds checked for a couple of minutes.

Sunshine	Blacktown
Keogh.....6	Londos.....7
Campbelj (sent off)	P. Carter.....6
Ketsakides.....5	Yankos.....5
Parton.....5	Longo.....4
Roodhouse.....6	Reynolds (sent off)
Clarkson.....7	Northam.....6
L. Carter.....6	Maier.....6
C. Foster.....7	Odzakov.....6
P. Foster.....6	(Jee 52m)
Hasler.....6	Gunning.....6
Zacharias.....6	Arambasic.....5
	Parker
	(Gibson 21m 6)

Scorers: Campbell 43m for Sunshine; Roodhouse (o.g.) 65m for Blacktown.

Yellow cards: Yankos 13m, Reynolds 46m, Northam 82m for Blacktown; L. Carter 32m for Sunshine.

Red cards: Campbell 80m for Sunshine, Reynolds 80m for Blacktown.

Referee: J. Rossis 5.

Crowd: 1508.

South Melbourne	Melbourne Croatia
McLaren.....6	Rados.....6
Michailakopoulos.....6	Horvat.....5
Durakovic.....7	(Kelic 70m)
Blair.....7	Selemides.....5
Mori.....5	Hannah.....7
Wade.....6	Marth.....6
Petersen.....7	Duzel.....6
Palatsides.....6	Davidson.....9
Tsolakis.....8	Donnelly.....6
Trimboli.....7	(Opasinis 6)
(Postecoglou 87m)	Milosevic.....6
Taliadoros.....6	Adzic.....7
	Caleta.....6

Scorers: Blair 12m, Trimboli 45m for South Melbourne; Adzic 75m (pen) for Melbourne Croatia.

Yellow cards: Adzic 94m, Selemides 95m for Melbourne Croatia.

Red card: Taliadoros 64m for South Melbourne.

Referee: G. Power 7.

Crowd: 9000 (estimated).



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Ground?

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★★★

THAT — The first radio coverage of the English FA Cup final was in 1935 when station 2GB in Sydney broadcast the Sheffield Wednesday v West Bromwich Albion game.²

Corry sacked after Croatia's sixth loss

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

COACH Ron Corry was promptly sacked after Sydney Croatia were beaten 3-1 by Marconi at Edensor Park last Friday.

Graham Arnold was appointed caretaker player-coach after a crisis meeting at the conclusion of Croatia's sixth QNSL defeat of the season.

The club is negotiating with Tony Vukusic, now coaching in Toronto, Canada.

Croatia, however, were not outlasted despite the scoreline in Corry's last match at the helm.

A first half blitz, which produced three goals in the space of 15 minutes, carried Marconi to victory.

The absence of speedy striker Manis Lamond through injury did nothing to help Corry's cause and his task became a hopeless one when injuries forced the replacement of Arnold and midfielder Ante Rumora at half-time.

Croatia started off well enough, taking the game to Marconi for the opening quarter of an hour but once Fred de Jong picked up a rebound to scramble home his first goal of the season after 16 minutes there was little doubt as to the final outcome.

The turning point possibly came just two minutes later. Goalkeeper Bob Catlin was caught on the wrong foot as he came off his line to meet a



Ivan Petkovic (left) and Tom McCulloch at the Croatian Sports Centre last Friday.

Jean-Paul de Marigny pressure back pass and was forced to stretch his huge frame an extra couple of centimetres to tip the ball over the crossbar.

For the remainder of the first half Croatia looked a dispirited side allowing Marconi the opportunity to fully assert their authority with another two quick goals.

Young goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac denied Peter Katholos with a good save after the Marconi midfielder simply strolled through a non-existent defence in the 26th minute but he only delayed the inevitable.

Marconi was on the rampage and when Ian Gray picked up possession and slid the ball to Zlatko Nastevski two minutes later, the deadly striker made no mistake by driving his shot in off the post for his eighth goal of the season.

Before Croatia knew what hit them, the match was all but over. David Lowe was allowed to find loads of

space on the right and chipped a delightfully weighted pass into the path of Gray to slam into the roof of the net from close range and give Marconi an unassailable 3-0 half-time lead.

Croatia's slim hopes of making a belated comeback completely vanished when Arnold and midfielder Rumora failed to appear after the break.

Instead of allowing Marconi to ram home their advantage,

Croatia's youngsters surprisingly showed the more enterprise during a second half which degenerated into a tame, mostly lifeless affair.

Marconi appeared quite content to hold on to their lead against a side which knew full well there was no way back.

Ivan Petkovic could have pegged one back after 62 minutes but saw Steve Calderan clear off the line after his long-range attempt had beaten Catlin.

Mariani tried to add some spark into his side by replacing Nastevski and Katholos with Gomez and Colagiuri in the 76th minute but all urgency had by then disappeared from the game.

With seconds remaining, Grbevski charged through the middle to finish off a David Seal cross and give Croatia some late, token consolation.

Sydney Croatia	Marconi
Kalac	Catlin
Savor	van Egmond
Babic	de Marigny
Hunter	Calderan
Jones	Wheatley
Grbevski	Gray
Ricoy	McCulloch
Rumora	Nastevski
(Gojevic 5)	(Colagiuri 76m)
Arnold	de Jong
(Popovic 5)	Katholos
Petkovic	(Gomez 76m)
Seal	Lowe

Scorers: de Jong 16m, Nastevski 28m, Gray 31m for Marconi; Grbevski 89m for Croatia.

Yellow cards: Seal 52m, Grbevski 66m for Croatia.

Referee: C. Bambridge 7.
Crowd: 5452.



An incident from Apia's recent 2-1 win over Adelaide City — JANUSZ KAMMA pic.

Sydney Olympic crash

BY ALAN CLARK

COACH Mick Hickman still believes Sydney Olympic is a genuine title threat despite Saturday's 1-0 loss to Adelaide City at Hindmarsh.

Defender Tony Vidmar guided home an excellent Carl Veart cross in the 59th minute to steal City two points but Hickman felt his side still had shown the touch of champions.

Goalkeepers Clint Gosling and Robert Zabica certainly could not have been tired after the action. Neither had to save a direct shot in the match.

Gosling moved his quickest when darting from his line to avoid the smoke from a flare senselessly thrown into the goalmouth after Vidmar's 59th minute goal.

City was out of touch and has a few worries. Charley Villani was carried off in 29 minutes with a damaged knee. He faces a lay-off after just returning following surgery to the other knee.

Kiwi import Declan Edge, too, damaged ribs last week against Preston and could be out for three more weeks.

The bright spot for City, though, is the out-

standing form of Soccer-oo defender Alex Tobin. He was immense deputising in the middle of the defence for suspended Neville Flounders.

Olympic dominated long stretches of Saturday's action with little Gary Phillips a creative dynamo in midfield in front of a frugal defence.

Olympic's problems lay up front.

Youngsters Jason Bennett and Marko Perinovic tried manfully but their inexperience and lack of composure let City off the hook though Perinovic always was a threat in the air.

Steve Georgakis, surely one of the most accomplished young defenders in the League,

had the best of rare chances in the first half with a 30-metre drive that just skipped past.

He also set up another in the 77th minute when he directed a deep cross on to the head of Robert Ironside. But the big Kiwi sent the chance just wide.

Substitute Steve Maxwell almost fired out of sorts City further ahead in the 79th minute. He latched on to an Adrian Santrac corner but shot just wide in a match that will not be long remembered by fans.

A final word, though for referee John Santa Isabel. He did not have a difficult game to handle but he did everything coolly and well with the minimum of fuss.

Adelaide City	Sydney Olympic
Zabica	Gosling
Shillabeer	Koch
T. Vidmar	Georgakis
Ivanovich	Hooker
Tobin	Bernal
Melita	Phillips
Santrac	Lee
Villani	Bennett
(Maxwell 29m 5)	Perinovic
Mullen	Ironside
Veart	Ollerenshaw
A. Vidmar	(Hristodoulou 53m)

Scorers: T. Vidmar 59m for Adelaide City.
Referee: John Santa-Isabel 8.
Crowd: 3205.

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Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Olympic	9	6	1	2	17	5	13
Marconi	9	5	3	1	17	7	13
Apia Leichhardt	9	5	3	1	11	5	13
South Melbourne	9	5	2	2	13	7	12
Melbourne Croatia	9	4	3	2	14	7	11
Adelaide City	9	4	2	3	10	9	10
Sunshine GC	9	3	3	3	12	11	9
Wollongong City	9	4	1	4	11	15	9
Preston Makedonia	9	3	2	4	7	10	8
Melita Eagles	9	3	1	5	7	11	7
St George	9	2	3	4	13	20	7
Blacktown City	9	2	2	5	12	16	6
Sydney Croatia	9	2	1	6	10	18	5
Adelaide Hellas	9	1	1	7	8	21	3

Round 8 Results*

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (A. Saad, R. Ironside, J. Koch) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS at St George Stadium. Crowd: 4025.
PRESTON MAKEDONIA 3 (S. Smith 2, A. Zinni)
ADELAIDE CITY 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 2200.

*Played on Boxing Day

Round 9 Results

ST GEORGE 1 (M. Bingley) WOLLONGONG CITY 3 (Z. Hristovski 2, O'Neil) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 558.
SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 2 (P. Trimboli, S. Blair) MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Z. Adzic) at Olympic Park. Crowd: 9000.
SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (M. Grbevski) MARCONI 3 (F. de Jong, Z. Nastevski, I. Gray) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 5452.
APIA LEICHHARDT 2 (R. Brown 2) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 at Lambert Park. Crowd: 2250.
MELITA EAGLES 2 (G. Brown, A. Genc) ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 1852.
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 1 (J. Campbell) BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (I. Roodhouse o.g.) at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 1508.
ADELAIDE CITY (T. Vidmar) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3205.

Top Scorers

Zlatko Nastevski (Marconi) 8
Rod Brown (Apia) 8
Joe Caleta (Melb Croatia) 6
Abbas Saad (Olympic) 6
Ossie Latif (Sunshine) 5
Paul Trimboli (South Melb) 5

Crowds

ROUND 8: 19,368
AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,767

ROUND 9: 23,825
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,404
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 194,970
AVERAGE PER ROUND: 21,663

Team of Round 8

B. Londos (Blacktown) B. Ellem (Apia)
R. Runje (Preston) K. Hagan (Syd Olympic)
S. O'Donnell (Melita) A. Genc (Melita)
R. Slager (Adel Hellas) R. Blair (Adel Hellas)
G. Hannah (Melb Croatia) S. Smith (Preston)
S. Clinch (Apia)

Player of the Round

BRIAN ELLEM (Apia)

Team of Round 9

P Traianedes (Preston) A Davidson (Melb Croatia)
J Koch (Syd Olympic) D Skeen (Wollongong)
M Durakovic (South Melb) P Traianedes (South Melb)
S Blair (South Melbourne) P Trimboli (South Melb)
A Tobin (Adelaide City) C Van Buren (Apia)
D Clarkson (Sunshine)

Player of the Round

Alan Davidson (Melbourne Croatia)

Wolves outclass "lucky" Saints

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



ANDY KOZKA

WOLLONGONG CITY downed St George 3-1 at St George Stadium last Friday but had it not been for the crossbar and post, the Saints could easily have conceded another three or four goals.

Adding to Saints' woes was the fact that they lost skipper Andy Koczka in the 75th minute when referee Dennis Voutsinas showed him a red card for pulling down Wollongong's David Skeen.

Wollongong's ice-cold and steel-hard player-coach, David Ratcliffe, later commented: "We played quite well and all our crosses looked dangerous."

"As I've said before, when Danny Crainie plays well, Wollongong plays well. After losing our last two matches by four goals, we just had to play well and this win gives us a chance for the Top Five."

Central midfielder Zivko Hristovski struck in the 44th (penalty) and 85th minutes, whilst right midfielder Derek O'Neill opened the scoring in the ninth.

No player was less fortunate than Wollongong striker Paul McFadden who rocked the post and bar on

three occasions as did Crainie early in the match.

Leading 1-0 after nine minutes, Wollongong had been desperately unlucky just 60 seconds earlier when Crainie shaved Saints' right post with a flashing drive across the face of the goalmouth.

St George looked as if they were in with a chance when blond teenage striker Matthew Bingley nailed the target in the 26th minute to balance the books following a good cross from the right by right-back David Green.

Seconds before half-time Wollongong pulled away to lead 2-1 through a penalty scored by Hristovski for a 'hand-ball' against Green.

The second session was all Wollongong as their midfield unleashed relentless pressure that buckled the St George middle and back lines.

St George's teenage goalkeeper, John Filan, had a marvellous match as the Saints collapsed in the second half, pulling off numerous saves to deny Wollongong a far bigger win.

McFadden rocked the St George bar in the 63rd minute with a vicious drive and nine minutes later saw another of his hot-shots brilliantly blocked by Filan from a point-blank range.

Five minutes from the end, Hristovski drove the final nail into Saints' coffin, striking a first-time flat cross rifled in by left-back Terry Murphy, giving Filan no chance to save.

After the match, a disappointed St George coach, Frank Arok, reflected: "The turning point was their penalty, after which we were forced to play catch-up."

St George	Wollongong City
Filan.....7	Pupovac.....6
Green.....6	McEvoy.....5
Moffitt.....6	Morlando.....5
Milicevic.....5	Vlietstra.....6
Morakeas.....5	Murphy.....6
Harper.....5	O'Neill.....6
(Kakakios 64m)	Hristovski.....7
Koczka (sent off)	Skeen.....8
McGregor.....4	Crainie.....8
Ilic.....4	Easthorpe.....6
(Spanoudakis 75m)	(Batten 76m)
Bingley.....6	McFadden.....7
Krslovic.....6	

Scorers: O'Neill 9m, Hristovski 44m (penalty), 85m for Wollongong; Bingley 26m for St George.

Yellow cards: Skeen 19m, McFadden 33m, O'Neill 43m for Wollongong City; Moffitt 59m for St George.

Red card: Koczka 75m for St George.

Referee: D. Voutsinas 7.

Crowd: 558.

BOXING DAY MATCHES

Olympic turn on the heat

BY LOU GAUTIER

Sydney Olympic	Sunshine GC
Gosling.....5	Keogh.....5
Barrett.....5	Alevisos (sent off)
Georgakis.....4	Roodhouse.....5
Hooker.....5	Waddell (sent off)
Bernal.....5	Parton.....5
Phillips.....5	Carter.....6
Lee.....5	C. Foster.....5
Hagan.....7	(Zacharias 75m)
(Koch 79m)	P. Foster.....5
Saad (sent off)	Hasler.....5
Ironside.....6	Clarkson.....5
Ollerenshaw.....4	Campelj.....4
(Perinovic 5)	

Scorers: Saad 62m, Ironside 76m, Koch 88m for Olympic.

Yellow cards: Hooker 66m, Barrett 80m for Olympic; P. Foster 66m for Sunshine.

Red cards: Saad 82m for Olympic; Alevisos 82m, Waddell 85m for Sunshine.

Referee: B. Monteverde 5.

Crowd: 4025.

Preston bounce back to form

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

PRESTON bounced back to winning form with a convincing 3-0 victory against an ineffectual and depleted Adelaide City at Connor Reserve.

Preston's victory was achieved in difficult conditions for all players concerned as strong, gusty winds blew down the ground in Preston's favour in the first half.

The scoring opened in the 18th minute when Robert Runje crossed into the centre from the right in the direction of striker Steve Smith, who did well sliding in to poke the ball past 'keeper Robert Zabica, to finally open his scoring account for the season.

Although Adelaide City was very disappointing it did manage a couple of chances via the counter-attack, striker Aurelio Vidmar shooting powerfully from close range but 'keeper Philip Traianedes held it at the second attempt.

The other chance fell to Adelaide's skilled veteran midfielder Adrian Santrac who curled a free-kick over the defensive wall from 20 metres but it floated

just over the crossbar.

In the opening minutes of the second period Adelaide defender Neville Flounders was sent off by referee John Fraser after a behind the play incident which resulted in Oscar Crino sprawling on the ground and clutching his face in agony.

Fortunately, Crino returned to play soon after.

Only 13 minutes later Preston made it 2-0 after a Markovac cross saw Steve Smith robbing defender Shillabeer, then squaring a pass to Zinni, who stormed past two defenders before neatly placing a shot past Zabica into the right corner of the net.

Smith scored his second, and Preston's third goal in the 85th minute, after another cross from Runje found Smith well placed to score into the top right corner of the net with a fine header.

In the dying seconds of the match, Preston striker Robert Markovac looked set to make amends for an earlier miss when put in the clear in a scoring position by Crino, but referee Fraser ruled off-side, in a close decision.

Preston	Adelaide City
Traianedes.....5	Zabica.....6
Runje.....7	Shillabeer.....5
(Woodall 86m)	Ivanovich.....5
Tasevski.....5	Flounders (sent off)
Jackson.....6	Tobin.....5
Jolevski.....6	Melta.....5
Petrov.....4	Santrac.....6
Slifkas.....4	Villani.....4
(Momirovski 56m)	(T. Vidmar 66m)
Crino.....7	Mullen.....6
Markovac.....5	Maxwell.....4
Zinni.....6	(Edge 61m)
Smith.....7	A. Vidmar.....6

Scorers: Smith 18th & 85m, Zinni 59m for Preston.

Red card: N. Flounders 49m for Adelaide City.

Referee: John Fraser 6.

Crowd: 2200.

Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

WARREN SPINK, who has been sidelined since breaking a bone in his foot in the dying stages of Round 1's match against Melbourne Croatia, hopes to make his return next

weekend, but he admits it may be another month before he is fully match-fit.

MICHAEL BRANOV, the son of for-

mer Preston president John Branov, has asked to be placed on transfer following his father's resignation. Branov has only made one first team appearance this season — against Wollongong City.

ANOTHER member of the Foster family is about to embark on a soccer career. Twenty-year-old Stephen Foster, whose brothers Craig and Paul now play for Sunshine George Cross after leaving Sydney Croatia and South Melbourne Hellas, will train with Georgie this month in preparation for a trial at the AIS in Canberra.

MARCONI chairman Remo Nogarotto, who is only 30 years old, told THE AUSTRALIAN's Ray Gatt that his club had budgeted for a shortfall of \$220,000 for this season. But he added that on a turnover of over \$15 million for the prosperous social club, the losses incurred on soccer were "inconsequential".

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS decided against signing Franston Pines defender Jamie McMinimiee after failing to come to terms.

ERNIE TAPAI, back from trials in Belgium, is not willing to commit himself to signing a long-term NSL contract, thus ruling out any chance he had of joining Sunshine, with whom he had been training most impressively.

APIA have signed Adamstown Rosebuds midfielder John McQuarrie. He made his debut for the club in their Youth League side last weekend.

URAKALO TO AVALA

Former National League coach Michael Urakalo, appointed and then dropped as Eddie Thomson's Sydney Olympic replacement, has signed as coach of NSW State League team Avala.

Urakalo, who coached Apia in the National League last season, signed a two-year-deal to succeed Tony Henderson.

"The offer was too good to refuse," Urakalo said.

MIRSAD Fazlagic, who coached Melbou-

rne JUST and led Yugoslavia to victory in the 1987 Youth World Cup, has moved to Cyprus where he will be at the helm of First Division side Larnaca.

SOUTH MELBOURNE Hellas stalwart Danny Wright will be out of action for two more weeks after spending some time in hospital for an eye injury sustained when he was hit by a ball in the game against Apia.

APIA coach Manfred Schaefer pleaded with Soccerroo boss Frank Arok to assess only the playing ability of midfielder Alex Bundalo when he selects his final squad for the matches against Torpedo Moscow.

Schaefer believes the player should not be penalised for being in the news when he was sentenced to four months' prison and fined \$500 for allegedly ramming his former girlfriend's car.

Bundalo is appealing the sentence.

ENGLISH Second Division club Brighton and Hove Albion have until this week to pay Sydney Olympic the \$100,000 the club is seeking for Alistair Edwards' transfer.

Brighton have yet to pay up, claiming the 21-year-old striker has a pelvic injury. They want to keep him until the end of the season (May) before making up their mind.

CLOT OF THE YEAR AWARD must surely go to Former Auckland Commonwealth Games chairman David Johnson, who writes in the introduction to the 1990 Games Official Souvenir Programme: "Welcome to the biggest and most significant sporting event to be held anywhere in the world this year."

Really . . . someone should have told the benighted gentleman about Italia 90.

GOOD to see VIC REYNOLDS back in Sydney on a holiday from England. Vic was one of Australian soccer's best left wingers in the 1960s with Sydney Croatia. He represented NSW and Australian XIs on several occasions.

He was accompanied at St George Stadium on Boxing Day by close friend, Frank Hearn, a Pan Hellenic stalwart in the late 1950s.

EDDIE KRNEVIC is back in Australia, en-

Batmen at the AIS!



Batmen 2 in plain tops whereas Batmen 1 are more appropriately attired. Photo taken at the AIS soccer bronze statue with one of the statuettes a Batman supporter for the day.

BATMEN has a field day at an indoor soccer tournament at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

The Batmen took out the 11 year boys' trophy. Two teams were entered — Batmen 1 and Batmen 2 and both went through the preliminary rounds undefeated only to meet in the semi-final.

Batmen 2 had been rampant, scoring 24 goals in the first three games and all players scoring (Joe Simunic, Zelco Susa, Ross Craven, Ada Waugh, Stephen Kay and Barny Smith).

In contrast, Batmen 1 (Tim Francis, Simon Barac, John Glass, Brendan Martin, Brent Tunney and Tom Simunic) had kept all opposition from scoring.

This pitted Joe Simunic, a top goal scorer from Batmen 2 against his younger brother Tom starring in goals for Batmen 1. Big brother's team prevailed (just!) and squeezed into the final with the apt score of Batmen 2 2 — Batmen 1 1.

An exciting final climaxed in a penalty shoot-out against the Swmap Rats. Goalkeeper Barny kept cool and saved shots while Joe and Zelco scored and the Batmen one and all celebrated...but where was Robin?

joying the six-week winter break in France.

He is staying with his parents in Victoria and will return to Mulhouse in a fortnight.

Krncevic is keen to return to Belgian soccer next season. He has only scored five goals this season whereas he topped the Belgian First Division goalscoring list with 22 goals in 1988/89.

SYDNEY friends of Romanian FIFA referee Ion Igna were worried to learn of the Romanian demonstrations and reprisals in city of Timisoara where he lives.

Ignas was in Sydney at the World Youth Championships in 1981 and since then he refereed many internationals in Europe.

ROBBIE SLATER won't be turning out for Sydney Croatia after all as his Belgian club, Anderlecht, did not give him permission to appear as a guest player while holidaying in Sydney during the Belgian winter break.

Slater is still cooling his heels in Anderlecht's reserves.

MARCONI's new Yugoslav player, Senad Glavovic, who has been impressive in the youth team, may make his first team debut later this month when Fred de Jong takes a leave of absence to represent his native New Zealand in the King's Cup international tournament in Bangkok, Thailand.

ZLATKO ARAMBA-SIC may be the next Australian to join the growing exodus to Europe.

Dinamo Zagreb are reported ready to offer the talented 20-year-old Blacktown City striker a contract.

Dinamo's coach is Josef Kuze, who had a spell coaching Sydney Croatia.

Dinamo, the runaway First Division leaders in Yugoslavia, are keen for Arambasic to join them immediately.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA are expecting a midfielder from Yugoslavia later this week. He is Kire Temcev, who would have arrived last week had his visa been in order.

FAIRY TALE DEPT . . . Adelaide City im-

port, sweeper Milan Ivanovich, is claimed to be the most expensive player in South Australia.

He is rated at \$80,000 on the maximum transfer fee lists, issued by the SA Soccer Federation.

Joe Mullen, Steve Maxwell, Charley Villani, Aurelio and Tony Vidmar, and Alex Tobin all are rated at \$60,000.

Hellas skipper Alby Kidd is rated at \$75,000!

On this basis, with Scott Ollerenshaw's transfer working out at \$40,000 in Sydney, the Adelaide figures are difficult to comprehend, to say the least.

FORMER SA youngster Jason Knight is having a successful joust in England.

Midfielder Jason, 15, is an apprentice professional with West Ham and also played with the Leicestershire county under-15 side.

So impressive was he, he has been drafted into a training squad, pruned from 500 to 80, for the England under 15s school-boy team.

RATCLIFFE SET TO JOIN 300 CLUB

WOLLONGONG City player-coach David Ratcliffe is in line to join Adelaide City skipper Sergio Melta in the NSL's 300-plus club by the end of the inaugural summer season.

Melta clinched his 300th NSL appearance against Apia Leichhardt in the seventh round.

Ratcliffe, provided he does not get sent off again, may reach this milestone in March, against either Marconi or Melbourne Croatia.

Theo Selemides will become a member of the elite 300-plus club in the dying stages of the minor premiership provided he stays clear of injuries and suspensions, and is not dropped from Melbourne Croatia's awesome first team line-up.

After eight NSL rounds, 14 players had chalked up more than 200 appearances, with super-sub Gerry Gomez' double century not too distant as well.

David Skeen, Paul Carter, Marshall Soper and Gary Phillips may all top the 200 NSL appearances by the end of the 1989/90 minor premiership.

The NSL's honour roll of appearances is as follows, with only active players considered, and substitutions taken into account as a full appearance.



300-appearance man Sergio Melta.

SERGIO MELTA (Ad City) 301

DAVID RATCLIFFE (Wollongong) 289

THEO SELEMIDES (Melb Croatia) 284

MIKE O'SHEA (St George) 262

STEVE BLAIR (South Melbourne) 260

GRAHAM JENNINGS (Apia) 260

CRAIG MASON (Melita) 259

PETER KATHOLOS (Marconi) 248

ALAN DAVIDSON (Melb Croatia) 223

CHARLIE VILLANI (Ad City) 215

IAN GRAY (Marconi) 210

TONY PEZZANO (Apia) 206

CHARLIE YANKOS (Blacktown) 206

DAVID LOWE (Marconi) 203

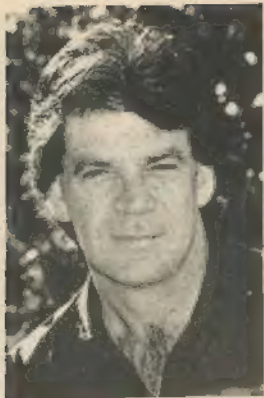
GERRY GOMEZ (Marconi) 197

DAVID SKEEN (Wollongong) 194

PAUL CARTER (Blacktown) 192

MARSHALL SOPER (Melita) 189

GARY PHILLIPS (Olympic) 185



JOHNNY WARREN

HAS HIS SAY

Socrates slams Brazil

BRAZIL'S magical free-flowing soccer, which has captivated the world for the past 30 years, may be a thing of the past, according to Socrates, one of the greatest players ever to wear Brazil's yellow shirt.

"Many of our best players are now with European clubs and this is influencing the way the national team is playing," said Socrates, who himself spent two seasons with Fiorentina in Italy in the early eighties.

"Consequently, I think Brazil plays with a more European style rather than its traditional way which is more adventurous. We all know what we mean when we talk about Brazilian soccer, and I have to admit, I prefer that to the European style."

Of the 22 possible players expected to make the squad for next year's World Cup finals in Italy, only seven play in Brazil.

The most prominent foreign-based players are strikers Careca, who plays for Napoli in Italy, and Romario, who plays for PSV Eindhoven in Holland, midfielders Alemão, who is also at Napoli, Dunga, who plays for Fiorentina, Geovani with Bologna in Italy, and Valdo, with Benfica in Portugal.

Defender Jorginho is at Bayer Leverkusen in West Germany, while Mozer is at Marseille in France.

The reasons they have left Brazil for Europe are usually three-fold.

The poor state of the Brazilian economy, woeful organisation at the CBF, the Brazilian Soccer Federation, and a chance to live abroad and earn more money than they ever could in Brazil.

But Socrates, a doctor and pediatrician, believes the outstanding Brazilian player at the finals will be one who is still playing in Brazil.

TIT BITS

- Sweden's 1989 Player of the Year is Jonas Thern, who toured Australia with Malmö this year but who has since joined Portugal's Benfica.

- Michel Vautrot, who is tipped to referee the World Cup final, has been voted Referee of the Year in France.



SOCRATES — worried

the 25-year-old Bebeto, who has just moved from Flamengo to Vasco da Gama.

Bebeto virtually guaranteed himself a place in the starting line-up in the World Cup after his performance in the Copa America in July.

Before the tournament he was seen as a possible reserve for either Careca or Romario, but when Careca was forced out with an injury, Bebeto took his place and scored six goals as Brazil won the title.

"He is very fast and is a very intelligent play-

er," said Socrates, "I'm sure he will be a big success."

Socrates, who will be 36 next February, made the last of his 58 appearances for Brazil in the 1986 World Cup quarterfinals against

France, which Brazil lost on penalties.

"But the best match I ever played in was in 1982 when we met Italy in the World Cup in Spain."

"Although we lost, that match was a celebration of football, a spectacle for the fans and a match in which the players respected the other team," he said.

"I am not certain who is going to win the next World Cup," he said, "because it is not always the best team that wins. A lot of things determine the world champion — organisation and luck."

"Obviously you have to have good players, but there is more to it than that."

Since retiring from soccer, Socrates has worked with various UNICEF campaigns in Brazil and also worked closely with the Health Ministry in Rio de Janeiro.

He will be working as a representative of a credit card company during the World Cup finals.

Brazil plays in Group C in Turin and meets Sweden, Costa Rica and Scotland in the first round.

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Diego Maradona hits the turf after a challenge from Juventus' Sergei Aleinikov. The Argentine superstar is in hot water over his World Cup "fixing" allegations.

Maradona still in strife

DIEGO Maradona could be fined or disqualified from the Italian First Division because of his reported remarks that the World Cup draw was fixed, a spokesman for the Italian Federation said.

The disciplinary commission of the Italian league will consider the possible disciplinary action against Maradona.

Maradona, who also is the captain of defending World Cup champion Argentina, was quoted in several Italian newspapers as saying that "World Cup groups had been pre-determined and the draw was made just for the fun of the television audience."

An Italian Federation spokesman said that tearsheets of newspapers reporting the allegation have been mailed to FIFA, which may consider taking action in the case.

Paolo Casarin, a top-ranking official of the

World Cup Organising Committee, said the December 9 draw in Rome was "absolutely fair and was witnessed by millions of television viewers."

"Perhaps Maradona was talking of seeded teams, which were pre-determined... Certainly Maradona's remarks will cause some interest at FIFA," Casarin added.

Maradona reportedly made his remarks after he arrived by private plane to join his teammates in Cagliari, Sardinia, where Italy and Argentina were to play an exhibition match.

The World Cup draw determined that Italy, the host country, will head a first-round group that includes the United States, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The group is considered probably the least difficult in the competition.

Argentina will play Cameroun, the Soviet Union and Romania.

Maradona said "it is one of the most difficult groups of this year's competition."

The World Cup begins next June 8 in Milan. The final will be played in Rome on July 8.

East German scandal

SOCCKER politics grabbed the spotlight in East Germany with accusations that the former East German secret police chief fixed matches for

his favourite club — 13 times champions Dynamo Berlin.

East German Federation secretary Wolfgang Spitzner told a West German newspaper that former STASI police boss Erich Mielke forced referees to ensure Dynamo Berlin won games.

Spitzner said there was no doubt that 81-year-old Mielke used his power and position to help Dynamo Berlin win.

He said football officials had been suspicious for years but insisted that there was nothing they could do.

"We were the victims of manipulation," they said.

Action now looks set to be taken as the dramatic reforms that have transformed East German life spread to the country's sports scene.

SOCCKER stars from East and West Germany will team up next year to play a benefit match against a "World XI" in Dresden.

World Cup Comments

THE 1990 World Cup draw attracted a potpourri of comments from the coaches and players involved.

Here are some of them.

- **BELGIAN** coach WALTER MEEUWS: "We have drawn a very balanced group. All teams are close to each other — and that includes South Korea, by far the strongest of the six so-called 'weak' countries. Italy have drawn the easiest group."
- **SEBASTIAO LAZARONI**, coach of Brazil: "All of Brazil expects us to win the World Cup for the fourth time, and we will do everything to fulfill our countrymen's wishes. However, I will be wary of Scotland, who did extremely well to eliminate France, and also of Sweden, who have defeated us in a friendly game in 1989. But we are aiming for the title. That being the case, we don't have the right to fear anyone."
- **JACK CHARLTON**, the Republic of Ireland's English supremo: "I did not want my team to be drawn again with England and Holland. But now that's it's done, I am not particularly worried. We know everything there is to know about both teams. I am sure the Dutch and English will employ the same tactics as at Euro-88. On the other hand, I know nothing about Egypt, but I will quickly find out all about them."
- **SOVIET** star Alexander Zavarov: "The draw should not be a problem for the Soviet Union. We should get through to the second phase with

Argentina."

- **DIEGO MARADONA**: "We will have a fight on our hands to reach the next round. I was hoping for an easier group, like Italy's for instance. Brazil have a better draw than us, but they too will have to fight to go through against the Scots and the Swedes."
- **ANTONIO CARECA**, Napoli's Brazilian striker: "I am totally confident. We have a good team, which can only get better. However, I do envy Italy its easy group."
- **LUIS SUAREZ**, coach of Spain: "We have inherited a very tough group. Belgium and Uruguay are fine teams but Spain have the know-how to go through. I am still angry England was seeded ahead of Spain."
- **IVICA OSIM**, the Yugoslav coach: "Our draw is just fine. West Germany will be hard to beat but the other two teams should not represent a problem. Group F is the hardest, Group A the easiest."
- **RUUD GULLIT**: "Group F is by far the toughest. Holland will have to play at its peak against England and Ireland. I hope I will be fit by next June. Holland will need to be at full strength to survive in this difficult group."
- **CZECHOSLOVAKIAN** coach Joe Venglos: "I'm quite happy with the draw. It could have been far worse. I think both the Austrians and us can qualify for the second phase."

Another "revolution" the answer?

The big breakthrough that won't come

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

EVER since that historic "revolution" of 1957 when the NSW Federation came into being, optimistic forecasts by naive, well-meaning dreamers have been constantly made that "one day" soccer will become the leading football code in this country and that "one day" Australia will become a world soccer power.

When over 30,000 people crammed into the old Sydney Sports Ground to watch South Coast United do battle with Apia in the 1963 Sydney grand final, that "one day" appeared to be fast approaching.

It finally arrived — or so we thought — on that unforgettable November night in Hong Kong in 1973 when Jim Mackay volleyed the Socceroos into the World Cup finals in West Germany the following year.

Ever since then, however, and despite the introduction of a National League in 1977, Australian soccer has slowly but sure-

ly lost its way completely.

I must confess to having been one of those dreamers, passionately believing that soccer's appeal will eventually win over the Australian sporting public. I was thoroughly convinced that given time, soccer will finally hit the jackpot.

Well, it hasn't happened yet, that "one day" I have been patiently waiting for is still to arrive but I'm now not so sure that I will ever see it.

Soccer in this country has had plenty of opportunities to catapult itself into a sport of major prominence but it has consistently blown them.

It had a huge start on basketball, both codes of rugby and Australian rules in terms of nation-wide appeal and international standing, but they have all been allowed to catch up and leap far ahead.

More than any other sport in this country, soccer's progress has long been stifled by internal politics which are strangling the game.

Prominent administrators who keep making claims about the awakening of the "sleeping giant" must



Frank Farina (left) in action in last April's World Cup match against Israel in Sydney. Australia's repeated failures to qualify have not helped soccer's cause.

now be looked upon with a great deal of cynicism and scepticism.

Sure, we have made a little progress at in-

ternational level but so have most other small soccer countries.

How far have we really come when Australia is knocked out of

the World Cup by "nobodies" like New Zealand?

On the home front, in our bread and butter domestic league, we have steadily been

going backwards ever since the mid-sixties.

Whether we like to admit it or not, our supposedly National League is nothing more than a bigger version of the off-season Ethnic Cup.

Our premier competition is generally run by ethnic people, for the sole benefit of ethnic clubs and their ever-shrinking communities.

I am of ethnic origin myself and far from ashamed to admit it, but for the sake of soccer's future in this country we have to face up to the fact that on the present basis, the game will never fulfill its true potential.

Continual boasts of having "half a million" participants in the sport at junior and amateur level means absolutely nothing.

The progress made by indoor and women's soccer during the last few years means even less.

These people are only interested in simply playing the game socially and no more.

The vast majority of them will not be seen dead at an NSL fixture involving Greeks and Croats, Maltese and Italians or Serbs and Hungarians.

Wide-spread interest in what should

be the catalyst for soccer's explosion just doesn't exist. Our National League is going absolutely nowhere.

Australia's Olympic basketball and hockey teams have been obtaining a variable degree of success for many years.

While hockey is still a minor sport away from the Olympics, however, basketball is now booming because it has finally got its act together at club level.

Occasional good results by the Socceroos in the World Cup can only take the sport so far, the one major barrier that must be broken is the week in week out general interest created by a viable National League.

As long as this is seen to be no more than an ethnic competition by Australia's sporting public, the chances of a significant breakthrough are simply not there.

That long-awaited "One Day" that we have been awaiting for so long appears to be further away than ever.

In 20 years' time, and with the existing ethnic support for soccer evaporated, dreamers like me will still be waiting for the big day to arrive.

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Pressure is on soccer to perform

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE pressure is on for the Australian Soccer Federation commissioners to come up with matters of value to the future of the code.

At present one of Australia's best informed daily newspaper writers has the pressure on the ASF to produce meaningful plans for the Socceroos and the national club scene in particular.

These, he contends, have to come out of the right end of the pipeline — and pronto!

But, to travel back in time and to another place, Rome was not built in a day.

Whilst everyone is awaiting the announcement of in-depth meaningful plans for the Socceroos, there is no sense in being impatient if a little more well spent time leads to the emergence of a highly worthwhile package, and on all fronts.

Alright, push the ASF now, but be realistic enough to appreciate that it cannot act in a

panic.

There is a substantial foundation for this line of action, even if recent history is hardly built on a rock.

Former chief Sir Arthur George allows that his idea was to have the ASF substantially in the black before leaving office.

But, as he has had to admit, the Federation was \$1 million in the red when his successors took the reins.

Sir Arthur's final plans had been to outlay monies and later recoup them.

But after a successful Gold Cup, a World Cup defeat by New Zealand, and ultimately elimination by Israel saw the scheme turn to shreds.

Now in his semi-retirement, Sir Arthur's knowledge of the FIFA scene is invaluable and the ASF is always ready to tap his views.

But the crowning jewel for his stewardship would have been a financially stable national body.

He gave help over



SIR ARTHUR GEORGE

time to get the ASF out of the mire, but the "over time" aspect is one of the good reasons why the ASF commissioners have had to slowly rebuild the code.

Changes

The first valuable change instituted by the commissioners was to replace the concept of a managing director plus executive members drawn from all states, with a compact set of five commissioners.

They report to the constituent states, but have the power to get on with the job.

Then came the appointment of Dr Graham Bradley to review the national organisation and make recommendations for its improvement.

Dr Bradley was involved in the small Coopers and Lybrand WD Scott team that turned rugby league from decimation to public demand and prosperity.

His recommendations in a few months' time will be examined with the deepest interest.

Soccer has some complications that do not exist in rugby league, yet when all is said and done, putting the emphasis on the sport and disposing of side issues should add to some distinct gains.

Future success for the Socceroos depends upon having well laid plans and opponents, the right coaches and players and sufficient funds by virtue of sound business deals and sponsorship, plus receipts from gates and other areas.

So chairman Ian Brusasco and fellow com-

missioners John Constantine, Sam Papasavas, Vito Cilauro and Ron Archer have the job of getting it all right.

Let no one think that the job is easy, living as we do at the end of the line.

But the soccer public needs long-term, well planned solutions — flash in the pan efforts will not do.

The same applies to the National League, as no longer can it be classed as "national" if major cities are missing.

Those who believe that soccer can be marketed in Australia as in Europe and South America will be by and large proved wrong.

and other schedules of games if the need arose, as well it may.

Dead losses

At present too much money goes into air fares, not enough is drawn at the gate, and a paltry amount goes into promotion of the matches.

Some ABC-TV ratings have reached fives and even sevens — excellent in terms of promotion of the code and well ahead of expectations.

Australian club soccer has now reached the second rung of the ladder.

But fans remain bewildered by the lack of information of the kick-off times.

And it is up to the NSL to find a way to bring a steady supply of Sunday games to Sydney.

Games which in the past have drawn their 10-12,000 fans are languishing at about 3,500.

These are bread and butter issues, and it is essential that Dr Bradley gives them every attention.

This can be at the direction of the ASF and/or NSL, or apart from that surely his terms of reference are wide enough to enable him to cover matters that are revealed along the way.

In Australia today there remain soccer leaders whose minds slip too easily into the groove of postwar migration — days that have long since gone for ever.

This is a new era. The offspring of those pioneers play the wide range of games that are available in Australia and the narrow band of sports is gone.

Sure, young Australians can learn from the gymnasts of Europe.

But today some quite

are cricket players and fans in Australia and will remain so.

Let soccer succeed as an all year round game, but putting heads in the sand will achieve little if anything at all.

Dr Bradley has the enormous but extremely important task of blending the old with the new.

He has to gently discard the matters which have been caught up in the dross of time, and encourage those who will turn our sport into an Australian game of the future.

Two examples come to mind at different levels of the game, and both involve Victoria.

Their National League input is limited to the Croatian, Greek, Macedonian and Maltese communities, leaving their remaining 2 million Melbourneans to their own devices.

If, say, 1.5 million of them won't have a bar of soccer, then what of the other 500,000?

Can anything be done to save the day as well



ALAN VESSEY

example quite as striking.

Returning to NSL club football, it is no use classing basketball as "a different sort of a game," and contending that NSL soccer will automatically challenge it.

Example

The commissioners and Dr Bradley should be acutely aware of the investment and presentation which underscores the Australian basketball miracle.

Take one recent episode.

The burgeoning North Queensland city of Townsville put up a strong case to join the National Basketball League.

Townsville backed up their case with a \$5 million investment plan, which included the provision of their own indoor arena.

No go, said the NBL. To meet criteria \$7 million was required. So it is back to the drawing board, or forget those NBL aspirations.

Meanwhile, soccer's unplanned existence has not enabled it to cover neither the mighty city of Brisbane, nor the city of Newcastle and the vital Hunter region, let alone the Golden West and distant Perth.

ASF general secretary Alan Vessey points to the national body's financial limitations, and the measures being taken to improve the shining hour.

The fortuitous arrival of the Victorian Health Promotion Fund and its related organisations has proved a blessing to soccer.

Particularly so as funds obtained are for the game's use and not for extraneous product campaigns.

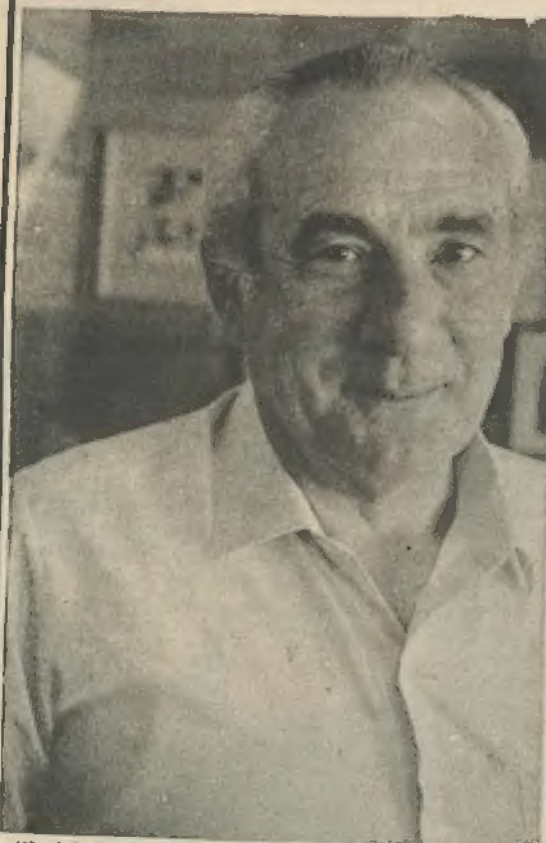
The ASF is receiving \$400,000 annually and the NSL would not be flying if the QUIT money was not to the fore.

All they are asking for is fair exposure from the game.

The ASF has income from the Soccer Pools but needs more valuable sponsors as well as profitable matches and television receipts.

Summing up, Australian soccer's top priorities include an exceptionally fine Socceroo schedule, an improved NSL and a dynamic action plan from ASF consultant, Dr Graham Bradley.

THE BRUSASCO VIEW



"I think we have every right to feel good about the progress made over the past 12 months.

"They are certainly the hardest we will face.

"The necessary direction has been given to our activities, and future announcement of plans will flow from there.

"Next August's tournament entry for Indonesia has been accepted.

"The Torpedo Moscow trip is upon us, and other plans are being advanced.

"I have had the pleasure of visiting every state except Tasmania to discuss progress with the leaders.

"Indeed I am to be in Tasmania to talk with them at the first available opportunity.

"The ASF is grateful to the states for support received for the promotion fund.

"We will hear South Australia's attitude shortly, but I felt reassured by the positive attitude of the delegates there.

"The respective duties of national coach Frank Arok and coaching director Eddie Thomson have been formalised.

"Soccer can look to a bright future as we forge our own future for the Nineties."



ABC TV's John Bell

Australian sport favours the grand final system, and promotion and relegation stand in the way of investment in the game.

Two home-and-away rounds could well be replaced by one full round

dated people in the game waste their breaths in decrying cricket whilst praising soccer and tennis.

The die has been cast however, and young and older people from European backgrounds

as the future?

If the answer is a lemon, then soccer in Victoria has no future and some sort of NSL divisions or State Super League are the only answers.

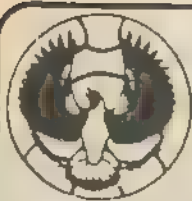
The second is in junior and school ranks.

Dr Bradley has had soccer connections in the Ku-ring-gai district where, incidentally, some local officials have continued to thwart the senior semi-professional ambitions of their own North Shore club, which exists to give expression to the talents of their own products!

We can tell the good doctor that Victoria would barely have a tenth of the number of junior and schools players that exist in NSW, and that the explosion in indoor soccer with all its skills potential is overwhelmingly north of the Murray.

Victoria is producing its quota of senior talent, but it is firmly suggested that the solutions that have been so obvious in NSW and Queensland for well over 40 years must at last be addressed.

It is not the only state with major problems, but there is no other



**ALAN CLARK
REVIEWS**

The Soccer Scene
in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Foundation S.A.

PROMOTING A STATE OF HEALTH

FORMER Adelaide City and Croatia striker Dane Sharp has left SA to return home to Newcastle.

Sharp had been training with Croatia but decided on the move home.

He was in his second spell with Croatia which he joined from City.

BROTHERS Kohki and Shinya Kawaguchi have found school life a dream in SA because of soccer.

The youngsters did not speak a word of English when they arrived in SA and felt outsiders.

But their love of soccer soon saw them big hits with schoolmates at St Leonards Primary.

The pair now also have represented SA at primary school level.

COLOURFUL striker Tony Gasparetto is making steady progress from the groin trouble that has sidelined him from the Adelaide Hellas QNSL line-up.

"I can run okay again but kicking the ball still is a problem," said Gasparetto. "I am pleased with the progress but it might be another two or three weeks yet before I'm fully fit."

Miranda poised to join Sydney club

BY JONATHAN COOPER

RICHARD MIRANDA, the 26 year old former Socceroo recently returned from New Zealand, has two Sydney clubs poised to snap him up at a bargain transfer fee of \$10,000.

Melita Eagles and Blacktown City are both interested in signing the tenacious midfielder now that his transfer has been re-adjusted to \$10,000.

It is understood that both Raul Blanco and Les Scheinflug desire Miranda's experience in their respective line-ups.

Miranda's former NSL club, Melbourne Hellas, slapped a \$20,000 transfer fee when the player returned from New Zealand, despite Miranda

ADELAIDE Croatia has been given a boost by signing former Rothmans Medal winner David Doorne on loan for a season from Polonia.

Doorne joins Polish import Wojtek Jagoda and promising teenager Douglas Paterson in the Croatia squad.

Croatia also is talking with Hellas over the transfer of striker Theo Anastasiou and midfielder Colin Miller.

FORMER Rothmans Medal winner Bernie Bridges has been put on the transfer list by USC Lion.

Bridges had been training with Croatia but is unlikely to join them for the new

Lion, meanwhile, has signed 24-year-old burly striker William Nathaniel from their WA sister club Ingleswood Kiev.

Lion also has fixed up John Klein and David Conway from Para Hills.

ADELAIDE City honoured former FIFA referee Donald Campbell with a gold watch to mark his services to soccer. Campbell was presented with the award at City's Christmas function to honour sponsors.



having a ceiling of \$10,000 in his original contract.

After appealing to NSL general manager Mr Peter Russell, the \$20,000 fee was promptly pared to \$10,000.

Late last week Adelaide Hellas' new coach, Brian Garvey also expressed interest in signing up Miranda to add steel to his middle-line.

VEART SIGNS

ADELAIDE City have signed young striker Carl Veart on a permanent basis.

City have agreed a \$12,500 fee with his club Salisbury, plus the \$2000 loan fee it agreed to at the start of the season. Should Veart play with the Socceroo, City will pay Salisbury a further \$4000.

Shape up or ship out



ADELAIDE City coach Zoran Matic has delivered a shape up or ship out message to his players after a disappointing recent run.

"I have asked who wants to fight and play for City and those who don't can go," said Matic. "It is no good them hanging around just to get their picture taken. We started this slide four weeks ago and if we don't wake up in the cellar."

"We shall have to think earnestly now what we shall do."

WA NEWS

ALAN VEST, the former Perth Italia coach, has joined Athens after declining offers to take up an Asian assignment.

FORMER St George midfielder Alan Potter has signed with Perth Italia.

PERTH ITALIA have lost interest in applying for NSL membership and is now actively promoting an Asian League in which this progressive club would represent Australia.

— RICHARD KRIEGER



Graham Jennings (No 3) and Joe Mullen fight for possession at Hindmarsh where Apia downed Adelaide City in a Round 7 fixture — JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

SA Soccer Pools

SA SPORT and leisure activities have doubled their money since teaming this year with the Lotteries Commission.

The Commission's Soccer Pools game boosted Department of Recreation and Sport coffers by \$500,000 in the past six months.

This is double that generated in the six months prior to the Commission assuming responsibility for Soccer Pools from the Australian Soccer Pools Limited administration.

Soccer Pools profits benefit all South Australians, according to the Lotteries Commission of SA general manager, Mr Laurie Fioravanti.

"The general community certainly benefits from Lottery Commission activities, Soccer Pools profits go to recreation and sport and profits from our other games keep our hospitals running," he said.

"Unfortunately, Soccer Pools is not being supported by the community as it

should.

"The future health of our state rests heavily on the Commission and we believe our game not only entertains but also the profits help provide outstanding medical, sport and recreation facilities.

"I urge all SA sportspeople to get behind Soccer Pools. It's a lucrative game for everyone.

Soccer Pools costs as little as 50 cents a game or a dollar for two.

Entries for the Pools and other Lotteries game can be lodged at

324 terminals around the State.

Two happy Hellas men

TWO Hellas players were especially keen to join in their celebrations after their side's first win of the season against Wollongong. Defender Zoran Maricic celebrated his 33rd birthday and goalkeeper Robbie Parks' wife Anne just presented him with a son, Phillip Adrian.

TOAST OF TASMANIA



The highly successful Tasmanian junior team — the Launceston Gold — which swept all before it in 1989 — Mark Doyle, Drew Pointing, James Stivaktakis, Duncan McCabe, Scott Glisson, Stewart Hassell, Philip Ackerly, Anthony Foley, Andrew Woolley, Daniel Cross, Dion Clarke, Marc Hemsley, Peter Gebka, Mathew Wilkins. Coach: Tom Strickland. Manager: Kevin Ackerly.

ACT BRIEFS

A man who has connections with the club going back to its origins in the 1960s is the new Inter Monaro president.

He is Mario Dondajun, who captained Monaro in its first season in 1967 when his father was the coach.

He played for another decade, during which time he was instrumental in setting up Monaro's junior section, and after his retirement from the field served as a committeeman until 1984.

• **TUGGEPANONG** United is to run a junior coaching course from January 22 to 25 at Wanniasa Enclosed Oval and the adjacent Erindale Centre.

The cost for the four days is \$50 a participant and it will be aimed at children between the ages of seven and 16 "although if older kids want to come along we will cater for them," organiser Jack Doherty said.

There would be a number of experienced coaches on the clinic including himself, Canberra City Concordia boss Chris Tanzey, Terry Jeffrey and Jack Kynaston, working under the co-ordination of United's coaching director, Ian Heywood.

"We will be providing coaching, games and videos for the kids each day between 9am and 4pm," Doherty said, "and with around 20 coaches available, we will be limiting numbers to 200."

Further information can be obtained from Doherty on (062) 92 3267 or from Dan Katz on (062) 31 7815.

• **THE** Tuggeranong six-a-side competition, approaching its half-way stage, is one of the successes of the summer season.

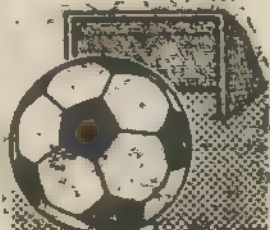
Organiser Dan Katz reports that there is a tremendous mix of players among the 16 teams — "juniors and oldies, First Division players and lower grades, teams composed of families and from existing clubs."

Scottish Thistle, the only team with a 100 per cent record, leads division A while CCAE has its nose in front in the Bs.

Latest results are: A, International 1 Travellers 0, Scottish Thistle 7 Azteca 3, Weston Creek 3 Young Ones 2, 79ers 4 Dinamo Roma 2. B, Platini All Stars 11 Soviet All Stars 1, Pensioners 2 ANU 1, CCAE 2 Allsorts 0, Expos 2 Dolphins 1.

• **WESTON CREEK** retained its ACT Women's Association summer seven-a-side title, beating Stormbirds 2-0 in the final at CCAE.

— GRAHAM COOKE





JEFF FAULKNER (right) in action against Wollongong City's Pat Brodnik last season.

Goodbye Jeff, thanks for the memories

BY GREG BLAKE

SUNSHINE George Cross veteran Jeff Faulkner has finally retired from NSL.

Faulkner, as fit at nearly 34 as many of the junior players at the club, has finally called it a day to concentrate on home and business matters.

Despite the club's promising start to the season Faulkner, who retired once before 18 months ago and was coaxed into returning, believes he had to make his exit at the end of his contract in November.

"It's a combination of things," Faulkner told ASW.

"We've got 10 away games and with the pilots' dispute everything has been mixed up.

"Of course, personal reasons — family reasons — and work-related problems all prompted his decision.

"It's all very well if you're single but I think I've just had enough of all the travel and the strains it puts on other parts of your life."

For Faulkner, who retires having played more NSL games than any George Cross player, there will be no "Nellie Melbas" this time.

"No, there's no way I'll be back again," he said.

"The club would probably prefer if I hung on for a bit but there has to come a time when you say no more.

"I've talked to Ernie (Merrick) and I think he was hoping for me to change my mind but I'm sure he appreciates my reasons for giving it away.

"It's a great club, but I've just got other

priorities."

Merrick says he did everything to try and entice Faulkner to stay on following his brilliant start to the summer season.

"But his mind was made up five or six weeks ago," said the George Cross boss.

Meanwhile, Faulkner, whose superb physical condition belies his 33 years, will stay on in some capacity.

"I haven't really thought about it yet.

"I might look fit but I am starting to feel it a bit on a Monday.

"I'd like to play in the State League where training involves only two nights a week.

"But I'll see how things go.

"Maybe it's not such a wise decision (to retire) after the great start we've had to the season."

"There's lots of enthusiasm, young guys at the club and a new coach and I think George Cross will do well.

"I'll certainly be kicking myself if they go on and win the championship."

ASW's Melbourne editor GREG BLAKE begins an occasional feature on days gone by in the National Soccer League, with the NSL now in its 14th season...

A LOOK BACK

The NSL 13 years on

SOMETIMES it's hard to believe that the NSL is now 13 years old.

It has been a chequered history for our country's premier soccer competition but along the way we've had a host of wonderful memories.



Over the coming weeks we'll be looking back at those heady, turbulent times of 13 years ago in this series of articles.

So get out your flares and wide collar shirts and cast your minds back to April 1977...

The second season of the then Philips National League was just six weeks old and



IVO PRSKALO

If not on the park at least off it where interest in the game in Newcastle was at an all-time high.

Huge crowds at the

the mid-April round six games — when a far more unsavoury aspect of the game stole the headlines.

At Melbourne's Middle Park, under the watchful eye of the TV cameras from the Channel 0/10 Philips Top Soccer Show, referee David Yelland was attacked by supporters towards the end of the Fitzroy United v West Adelaide game.

"They came at me like a pack of savage animals. I thought they were going to tear me to pieces," said Yelland from hospital.

The daily press had a field day and the pictures of the 'riot' were flashed across the country in TV news broadcasts.

Just weeks later the current two-metre high fences were erected at Middle Park after pressure was brought to bear on soccer authorities.

Marconi was top of the table following a scoreless draw with the old Eastern Suburbs Hakoah in a game which saw one Eddie Thomson (Hakoah) and Marconi's Ivo Prskalo sent off.

The best crowd of round six was at Olympic Park where just 7,000 fans watched two goals from Peter Ollerton give his club South Melbourne a 2-0 win over Footscray JUST.

Marconi, South Melbourne and the old Western Suburbs club were the only three unbeaten teams in the PSL.

In the world game it was reported that all tickets for the World Cup final in Argentina the following year had already been sold out.



EDDIE THOMSON

league newcomers Newcastle KB United had taken the competition by storm.

Newcastle International Sports Centre had been the talking point of the new season until

Garvey's contract

Brian Garvey on a one-year contract as full-time coach. Under the agreement, Garvey also will coach Hellas State League First Division side and will be involved in coaching clinics at schools.

Colin Miller and Martin Doak, earlier put on the transfer list, have returned to train with Hellas. And disenchanted striker George Konstandopoulos looks sure to re-sign for the club.



HELLAS has appointed new coach

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BANKSTOWN — unlucky to miss out.

New Second Division clubs made welcome

BY PAUL GOODWIN

AT the Annual General Meeting of the NSW Soccer Federation, held on December 1, the composition of the State League's two divisions was announced.

There were some surprises, although strong arguments could be put in favour of the 14 clubs named to compete in the Second Division.

Promoted to First Division were Premiers Sydney Macedonia and second placed North Shore United who lost their place the previous year following difficulties in meeting certain aspects of the strategic plan.

to ambitious Fourth Division outfit Petersham Lusitanos, who will have just one year to prove that they can meet the necessary criteria, before the strategic plan is fully implemented.

After some years struggling for crowds in the St Marys area, the former Uruguay Penrith club has taken a new direction after being relegated from First Division.

Now relocated in the Fairfield area, where many of their supporters originally from South America reside, and re-established as a limited company, Fairfield City Soccer Club hopes to become a real

Districts have also been elevated to the Second Division after a good year under coach Mike Johnson.

With the inclusion of both Rosebery Portugal and Petersham Lusitanos in next year's competition and the continuing involvement of Dulwich Hill Madeira, there will now be three Portuguese clubs and five of Latin origin when Granville-Chile and Fairfield City are taken into account.

In addition, the inner suburbs are well catered for with the three Portuguese teams supplementing Waverley in a congested area where demands for suitable sta-

National YL North

December 22/24 results:

Apia 2 (A. Franze, A. Pisano) St George 1 (A. Poric), Blacktown 2 (McArdle, S. Tuinman) Sydney Croatia 0.

Cup: Sydney Olympic 2 (T. Pontidas, P. Carduzzo) Melita Eagles 0.

Marconi 2 (S. Glavonic, A. Charlwood) Wollongong 0.

December 29/30: Melita 2 (G. Pelli, A. Aravena) Apia 1 (P. Lahanas), St George 2 Wollongong 1.

Sydney Croatia 1 (A. French) Marconi 1 (G. Lopez).

Cup: Blacktown 2 Sydney Olympic 0.



Tom Pontidas

National YL South

December 22/24 results:

Melbourne Croatia 2 (Grbac, Bacak) East Richmond 1 (Daglaras), Geelong City 1 (Plummer) Altona Gate 5 (Latomanski 2, Trajkovski, Simovski, Tasevski), Melbourne City JUST bye, Clifton Hill 0 South Melbourne Hellas White 3 (Freund, Nicolapoulos, Radecki), Caulfield City 1 (Kyriakopoulos) Heidelberg United 1 (Kakavoulis), South Melbourne Hellas Blue 2 (Polyzoudis, Piri) Sunshine George Cross 2 (Muscat 2).

Southern Districts clears the air



Mike Johnson (South Dists coach)

FURTHER to our telephone conversation, may I take this opportunity to thank ASW on the manner in which you have listened to my disappointment on a paragraph in your article entitled "Second Division Football comes to Liverpool" in the issue of December 20, 1989.

As mentioned, whilst the writer was quite complimentary in most of the article, the third paragraph is not totally correct.

As the proud president of Southern Districts United, I feel that it is my duty to bring this unfortunate mistake to your attention, and respectfully hope that you will see fit to correct it.

Whilst in your article it is said that 'The State League team complements the co-operative agreement between SDSFA and Marconi Soccer Club', it should be noted that said agreement between these two fine organisations have been limited to the Marconi Club assisting the SDSFA with the use of their ground facilities as well as their coaching staff for only the SDSFA National Youth League teams and at no time this agreement referred to the State League team named Southern Districts United.

For your information, as the name suggests, Southern Districts United is a result of a joint agreement between SDSFA and Sydney United Youth and Sports Club.

This agreement was reached between the said organisations in 1987, with a view of purchasing a team in the then State League Division

their expertise in providing the coaching and representation in the NSW Soccer Federation, which would require a much more professional and extensive understanding of the requirements of this code.

In return, Sydney United would bear the total financial burden as well as the running and administration of Southern Districts United.

You will agree with me when we suggest that since its inception, Southern District United's rise can only be described as dynamic.

In the past two years, Southern Districts United have enjoyed a very large following, which is also highlighted in the article run in your paper dated December 20, 1989.

Whilst the majority of our support is from the Turkish community in Sydney, we are proud to say that we enjoy a multicultural following which is depicted in the success of the team.

Needless to say, a great portion of the success of developing this following is attributed to the efforts put in by the committee and the members of Sydney United Youth and Sports Club, who have been a tremendous support to Southern Districts United.

Finally, as your paper is regarded as the leading soccer journal in Australia, your article has caused me much alarm as it has been read by quite a number of our followers and no doubt will cause similar disappointment to them.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to clear the air.

Vedit Kurangil
Southern Districts United Soccer Club
PRESIDENT



PETERSHAM LUSITANOS — must meet criteria.

Bottom club Bathurst '75 was relegated to Federation League 3 after a year in which they achieved some good results on the field and took out the prestigious Fair Play award with something in hand.

With their new ground at Kelso Park coming along a treat it is to be hoped that the absence of this regional side will not be prolonged.

Also missing after a fair season is Bankstown, who did not have a good year financially, while Fairy Meadow was dissolved and sold their interests

force in Second Division in 1990.

The local council is backing the club's move to its new district and has offered to support improvements to its new ground at Knight Park which needs to be brought up to the required standard.

Also promoted are Third Division runaway Premiers and Champions Rosebery Portugal and runners-up Central Coast who will add further geographical credibility to the State League unit.

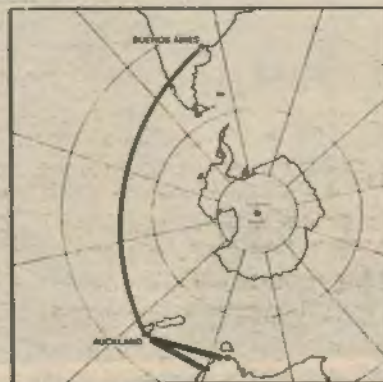
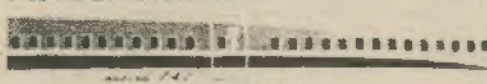
In a surprise move, third-placed Southern

dia will be fierce.

Waverley look set to fully establish themselves at Waverley Oval, while Petersham are to play at Erskineville Oval, a ground already nominated by Dulwich Hill as a potential new home.

Rosebery have the Sydney Athletic Field at their disposal and providing redevelopment of the site is shelved they could be the best served for the future.

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Off-Season Amateur Review

NSW Director of Coaching David Lee is very appreciative of the assistance given by the Big Brother Movement.

In 1989 it sent few outstanding NSW youngsters for overseas experience.

Assistance originally came from the movement via former NSWFSF director, Jock McAusland.

NEXT season the state tournaments will cover under 17 grade. Under 16 has been incorporated with the 17s.

SHIN PADS are obligatory for kiddies in soccer next season, following the recent FIFA edict.

A number of manufacturers have been working to market some new shinguard products.

THE Commonwealth Bank Champions first round will be played at country venues in 1990.

City clubs will have the home ground rights in 1991.



BILL CULLINAN

ELECTED officials for the NSW Amateurs in 1991 are: Chairman: John Hedison, Senior Vice Chairman: Harrie Denning, Soccer Secretary: Frank Wilson, Finance Director: George Churchward, Competition Secretary: Bill Cullinan, Registrar: Frank Broughton.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE, the Colossus of Sydney junior football, will ban under 11 and 12 junior players from appearing with club teams in 1990.

The Association has made a reasonable decision, which will enable the cream of the district to prepare themselves for top standard football.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tony Pollard on his election as president of the Nepean District Soccer Association.

The former State League referee has been an official of Springwood Soccer Club, on the Lower Blue Mountains.

Barbara Horley is the long-serving secretary.



John Hedison

FORMER Marconi player Richie Williams is in for a busy year.

He has been appointed Director of Coaching for the Marconi and Southern Districts representative teams.

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MANLY WARRING-AH Association's future remains in very

AIS starlets

BY GRAHAM COOKE

ON past records at least half, possibly two thirds of the Australian Institute of Sport squad will go on to play their soccer at NSL level or over-

seas.

To identify the stars of the future, the following is one of a series of profiles on the institute youngsters currently performing in the summer National Youth League.

SONNY SEVIN

"The great thing about the institute is that whatever you do you are always learning — even from the own goals."

Defender Sonny Sevin had that particular lesson a couple of weeks ago when he put into his own net in a National Youth League game, and he is determined never to need a refresher course.

Like other members of the AIS squad, he realises the boost to his career an institute scholarship can provide and is determined to make every moment count.

"I've wanted to be a soccer player since I was six years old in Melbourne," he said. "My father had played overseas and he was the biggest influence in my early days."

That time included spells with Heidelberg and South Melbourne juniors and representative honours with Victoria at under 14, 15 and youth levels.

"There had been a

lot of rumours going around about the possibility of me getting an institute scholarship, but when the definite offer came I had a week's notice. It was a case of packing my bags and getting up to Canberra."

After his scholarship ends it will be back to Melbourne initially. "I would like to play in Australia for a couple of years at least."

"But I realise the dangers in going from full-time to part-time soccer. I'm not so much worried about losing my skills, but fitness is a problem."

"This country desperately needs full-time professional soccer and I will probably go overseas eventually — West Germany would be my first choice."

The Australian player he most admires is Paul Wade of South Melbourne — "he is so full of running" — while overseas, he looks up to John Barnes of English giant Liverpool.



Moya Dodd, one of the members of the Australian women's soccer team who returned from their four-match December tour of Japan undefeated. The Aussies drew twice — 2-2 and 1-1 — with the Japanese national side and defeated Prima Kunoichi 2-0 and Yomiuri 1-0.



Pictured from left, Gordon Finson, president, Bundaberg Referees Association, John McCarthy, assistant manager Bundaberg Commonwealth Bank, Bevan Grohn, president, Bundaberg Soccer Association and Les Killer, coach, Shalom College. At front from left, Giuseppe Barazza, who was judged Best and Fairest Player in the team, and Bryan Arnicar, captain of Shalom.

Cup unifies Bundaberg

THE Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup brought together many facets of the soccer fraternity in Bundaberg in 1989.

Not that there wasn't already a great working relationship in the city but the cup activities certainly added to it.

The additional plus was the continued interest shown by the Commonwealth Bank, in particular assistant manager John McCarthy.

Naturally, great interest was shown when

Bundaberg's Shalom College won Area 2 (Queensland B) by downing Wynnum 2-1 in a classic final.

Although beaten by Alexandra Hills in the pre-quarter final match, Bundaberg was on the map.

Coach Les Killer was the man who almost single-handedly promoted the competition in the area.

Association, coaches, referees, all media outlets knew about the exploits of Shalom College in the Commonwealth

Bank Bill Turner Cup. It was no different at the big school presentation day.

People wanted to be there or at least felt obligated to be there.

The parents came, the media would not be left out and the students lapped it up.

Every team member felt the emotion that comes with sporting success.

One can only wonder what bill of fare Les would have promoted had Shalom gone on to actually win the Cup.

Important role for Jim Forrest

JIM FORREST has been given the important role of director representing the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation on the NSW Soccer Federation board.

A senior lecturer at Macquarie University, Forrest has had an outstanding career in NSW Amateur football.

He came through the ranks of North Epping Rangers SFC, later serving as Gladesville-Hornsby FA president for over four years.

More recently he has been the efficient secretary of Sydney Branch for the biggest regional soccer body in Australasia.

The Forrest family has not been without its soccer connections.

His grandfather represented New Zealand in the early days of the code in New Zealand.

Mr Forrest replaces John Hedison, who has decided that the time has arrived to concentrate on his not inconsiderable duties as chairman of the NSW Amateur Federation and president of the St George District SFA.

— KEITH GILMOUR



JIM FORREST

JUNIOR CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed.

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MELITA WIN RECOGNITION



MELITA Eagles had a long battle to win recognition in the huge Granville District SFA.

Originally their existence was opposed by long established junior clubs in the suburbs surrounding Melita's South Granville home, which adjoins suburbs such as Chester Hill and Sefton.

They contended that they had the right to operate in their own suburbs as part of the regular pattern of junior football in the district.

But times have changed and the Parramatta Melita Eagles junior club has been granted affiliation.

Registrar is Joe Saliba (Tel: 823-2374).

— KEITH GILMOUR

Johan Cruyff's family crisis

Oh, Chantal, you naughty girl . . .

BY GEORGE VAN ZANDEN

LOVELY Chantal Cruyff is in trouble with her dad Johan Cruyff.

Chantal is in love and left home to be with her lover, football player Danny Muller.

Young Danny, on loan from Ajax, shot through last month after Cruyff told him to shape up or go back to Holland.

Danny did not like the discipline and the hard work he had to go through every day to please Cruyff at Barcelona.

Danny did not like to play in the Spanish club's reserves.

Danny could not think of being separated from Chantal and the two packed their bags and headed north to Holland.

The Madrid newspaper EL PAIS believes an angry Cruyff will be the downfall of Barcelona.

"Cruyff is so mad he won't listen to reason. His family problems are clouding his coaching judgment," wrote the newspaper.

"Barcelona won't catch Real Madrid unless the lovely Chantal comes home to dad," it added.

Cruyff now has three attacking strikers and midfielders and even the defence goes up in attack.

It is now called the "Cruyff system".

His assistants, Carlos Reixach and Tonnie Bruins Slot, dare not criticise Cruyff and any protesting player is out.

Gary Lineker and Francisco Carrasco rebelled, and were sold.

New boy Ronald Koeman feels like a cat on skates.

He is playing in midfield on the right.

Laudrup, another expensive "hot shot", needs room to move around and gets bogged down in front of the opponents' goal.

Cruyff bought new players worth almost \$40 million to compete with Real Madrid.

Now Barcelona had to borrow \$15million!

"Sack Cruyff," screamed EL PAIS, "Is he worth 4 million? Barcelona cannot win away games".

Club president Nunes must have had cold shivers when Cruyff left the expensive Valverde and Soler on the bench and had 18-year-old amateur player Lucendo in midfield.

But Barcelona's 110,000 club members still love Cruyff.

He got tremendous applause when he played against the Bulgarian national team and scored a goal after 20 minutes.



JOHAN CRUYFF — distraught father.

Cruyff played in a friendly testimonial game for Miguel.

The 42-year-old cigarette-smoking Cruyff was in great form and every time he got the ball the crowd chanted his name.

The supporters like him to play again and when Barcelona's millionaire football players fail to score, they sing out: "Cruyff, Cruyff come back."

Clemente, the popular coach of Atletico Madrid, claims the Cruyff system can only succeed if you have the eleven best players in the world.

"But let him keep trying, we don't mind," he said.

John Toshack, Real Madrid's Welsh coach, hopes Barcelona will keep on playing the Cruyff system.

"I like my opponents to camp in my half of the field," he said. "It makes it easier for us to score."

Toshack is also in trouble — Real Madrid can't score goals and it is rumored Leo Beenhakker could be on the way back.

The nonchalant Ajax team is driving Beenhakker up the wall.

He has no time for some Ajax players who "fool around and try to do funny things with the ball to amuse the crowd."

Richard Witschge, one of Holland's great talents, can do all kinds of tricks and makes even Dutch national team player Jan Wouters laugh.

Beenhakker finds it "unprofessional".

In the meantime, Johan's lovely Chantal is still in Holland, and Cruyff wants her back in Spain.

Mrs Cruyff went to Holland to try to find the truant lovers.

The whole of Spain is waiting.

Bargain buy Townsend

BY JOHN DOAKES

AS Norwich continue to prove to the rest of the First Division that they are no one-season wonders, the career of midfielder Andy Townsend is really going places.

And one destination at the end of the season could well be Italy for the Republic of Ireland international who must rank as one of the bargains of the decade.

The fee of \$600,000 which took Townsend to Norwich from Southampton is testimony to manager Dave Stringer's impressive budgeting at City.

"It's been a great move for me," beams Andy. And it certainly hasn't done his international ambitions any harm either.

"I'm delighted to have played six times for the Republic and feel very proud every time I pull on the green shirt," says the Maidstone-born playmaker, whose grandparents were Irish.

"When we play at home the roar from the crowd makes you feel very Irish and incredibly welcome. It means a awful lot to the people of Eire to qualify for the greatest football tournament in the world."

But what about Jack Charlton's up-and-under style of player, which is so different to the methods coached at Norwich?

"It's not really a problem because Jack Charlton commands such great respect from the players," Andy explains.

"He is brilliant at

motivating players and doesn't believe in half measures. His record speaks for itself although he never says to us 'just boot it'. His main concern is that we don't get caught with the ball in dangerous areas.

"Billy Bingham was right when, after the Northern Ireland game, he said that Jack would have something extra up his sleeve when we arrive in Italy. Maybe we'll be told to slow the game down in the extra heat, although Jack will still demand genuine 100% effort."

While Townsend's early-season form for Norwich has made the loss of Michael Phelan to Manchester United easier to bear, he is reluctant to put forward any claims to being Liam Brady's successor for Eire, now that the West Ham star has retired from the international scene.

"I was very shocked when I heard Liam's decision. I've always looked at him as being on a different plane to the rest of us and I'm sure that his experience of the Italian game alone means that there is still a role for him."

"After such a fantastic career, the World Cup finals would provide the icing on the cake for a remarkable player."

— courtesy SHOOT



ANDY TOWNSEND

ANTWERP SIGNINGS

BELGIAN First Division club Antwerp said they had signed Bulgarian international midfielder Plamen Simeonov from Slavia Sofia and Yugoslav striker Zoran Stojadinovic from Spanish side Real Mallorca.

A club spokeswoman said both players would be eligible to play for Antwerp in their UEFA Cup quarter-final matches against West German FC Koln because they were signed just before the December 15 transfer deadline set by the UEFA.

She declined to reveal the transfer fees for Simeonov, 28, and Stojadinovic, 27.

Bebeto set to join Napoli

ROME's sports daily "Corriere dello Sport" reports that Napoli has signed Brazilian forward Bebe-to for next season.

The Italian club, which includes in its line-up Argentine superstar Diego Maradona and the Brazilian duo of Antonio Careca and Alemao, did not confirm the report.

According to the widely circulated Rome daily, Napoli agreed to pay newly crowned Brazilian champions Vasco De Gama about \$8.4 million.

The daily reported that Bebe-to's transfer to Napoli was supported by Maradona and that the Brazilian would replace fellow-countryman Alemao.

Alemao is actually being sought by Sampdoria of Genoa for next season.



BEBETO



Buia of Gremio's attempted header is thwarted by Bahia goalie Wilson in a Brazilian National League match. The 1989 title went to Rio's Vasco de Gama.

Tough build-up schedule for US

THE United States, gearing for their first World Cup in 40 years, will play host to World Cup teams from Colombia, Costa Rica, the Soviet Union and Uruguay this year in preparation for the 1990 finals.

The games will be part of the four-city Marlboro Cup series and will also include the national team of Mexico and the Mexican club team Chivas of Guadalajara.

The series is scheduled for Miami (February 2-4), Los Angeles (February 20-22), Chicago (May) and East Rutherford, New Jersey (August). Two double-headers will be played at each site.

The World Cup runs June 8-July 8, with the United States grouped with Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

This edition of the Marlboro Cup initially called for the United States to play Italy but that plan was abandoned after the two countries were placed in the same World Cup group.

Clive Toye, chairman of the Mundial Sports group, promoters of the Marlboro Cup, said a replacement side would soon be announced.

Toye also serves as chairman of the American Soccer League and is the President of the ASL's New Jersey Eagles.



He said the ASL and the Western Soccer League, the country's two primary outdoor leagues, will merge in "a couple of weeks."

Toye said the League — unnamed as yet — will have 11 teams on the East Coast and 12 on the West Coast. Games will be played in small stadiums and without marquee foreign players.

The season is to run from April to August and is aimed not only at rebuilding outdoor soccer in the country following the demise of the North American Soccer League, but at generating publicity for this World Cup and the one in 1994 in which the United States as host is assured a berth.

Everything is meshed together," Toye said.

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Coach confident South Koreans will do well

BY PAUL SHIN of AP

THE manager of South Korea's World Cup team plans to focus on beating Uruguay to vault his country into the 16-nation second phase.

South Korea has never passed first-round play and this will be its third main World Cup competition.

"We must beat at least one team to advance to the second round, and it will be Uruguay, which is considered relatively weaker than the others," said manager Lee Hwe-taek.

Lee returned from a two-week trip to Brazil where he mapped out his squad's training schedule for next year's World Cup.

South Korea, as an Asian representative, was included in Group E to play with Belgium, Spain and Uruguay.

Lee said South Korea needs at least a win or two draws in the first round to advance to the second round.

"I watched the drawing televised live in Brazil and was a little disappointed that we will have to play all strong teams. But there will be a way out," he said.

Lee, a former national team star, said Brazilian soccer experts advised him to focus on beating Uruguay, which is relatively weaker than the

other first-round competitors.

"Belgium and Spain may be too strong for us to beat, but we will not be scared to advance," he said.

On the basis of the information he gathered in Brazil, Lee said he would realign his team soon, replacing three or four defenders and midfielders as he believes his

side is still weak in its midfield and defence lineup.

As part of a tune-up programme, South Korea plans to take part in a tournament in Malta in February where Norway and Saudi Arabia have also been invited.

After the Malta tournament, the South Koreans may tour Europe for more games.



Action from the Asian championship match between South Korea and Kuwait. The Koreans failed to win the 1989 Asian title, but more than made up for it by qualifying for Italia '90.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- As a result of glasnost finally also sweeping Bulgaria, the country's two leading clubs will be able to use their old names again next season. CFKA Sredets will revert to CSKA and Vitosha will be known as Levski Spartak.
- Adi Pinter is the new coach of Austrian First Division Grazer AK.
- The Egyptian World Cup squad will make a pilgrimage to Mecca before next year's finals to thank Allah for their first qualification since 1934.
- Lukas Tudor, Sion's Chilean player, was involved in a car accident and ended up in hospital. The Swiss club is having no luck with its foreign contingent as Belgian Renquin, Argentine Clausen and the West German Neumann are all sidelined also.
- Diego Latorre, Boca Juniors' 20-year-old striker, the find of the season in Argentina, is likely to sign for Nantes, the French club of countryman Burruchaga, in 1990/91.
- Argentine club Rosario Central celebrated its 100th birthday on December 24.
- Real Madrid are interested in Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall, which can't be a coincidence since Real manager John Toshack is also Welsh...
- Dynamo Tbilissi became the third Soviet club to visit Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War when they played against Maccabi in Haifa. Dynamo Kiev and Dnepr toured Israel late last year and earlier in 1989.
- Bayer Leverkusen are negotiating the transfer of Malmö FF midfielder Stefan Schwarz. Malmö are asking \$1 million for their under 21 Swedish international.
- The Dutch FA (KNVB) was officially one hundred years old on December 20 — the date of the match against Brazil in Rotterdam, which the South Americans won 1-0.
- Asia is on the move. Two new competitions have been created — an Asian Champions' Cup and an Asian under 21 championship. The former will kick off in 1990 and the latter in 1991.
- Katowice are the Polish "autumn" champions. At the conclusion of the first round of league matches they had 24 points, two more than Zagłębie Lubin.

Van Basten European Player of the Year

AC Milan's Dutch striker Marco van Basten has won the European Footballer of the Year award for the second year in a row.



Marco van Basten

He led an AC Milan clean sweep of the top three places in the annual poll conducted by the weekly France Football.

He received 119 points, topping Italian sweeper Franco Baresi (80) and midfielder and fellow Dutchman Frank Rijkaard (43).

It was the third year in a row that the prestigious trophy went to a Dutch player with AC Milan.

Ruud Gullit, who scored two goals in the 1988/89 European Champions' Cup final but missed most of the year with injury, won it in 1987.

Gullit came seventh this time.

The vote closed a year of unprecedented success for AC Milan, which followed its European Cup triumph with a victory over Barcelona to win the Super Cup before also taking out the Toyota Cup.

Six players with Milan clubs made the top 10. Lothar Matthaus, the West German midfielder of city rivals Inter was fourth, and his compatriot and club-mate Juergen Klinsman ninth.

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